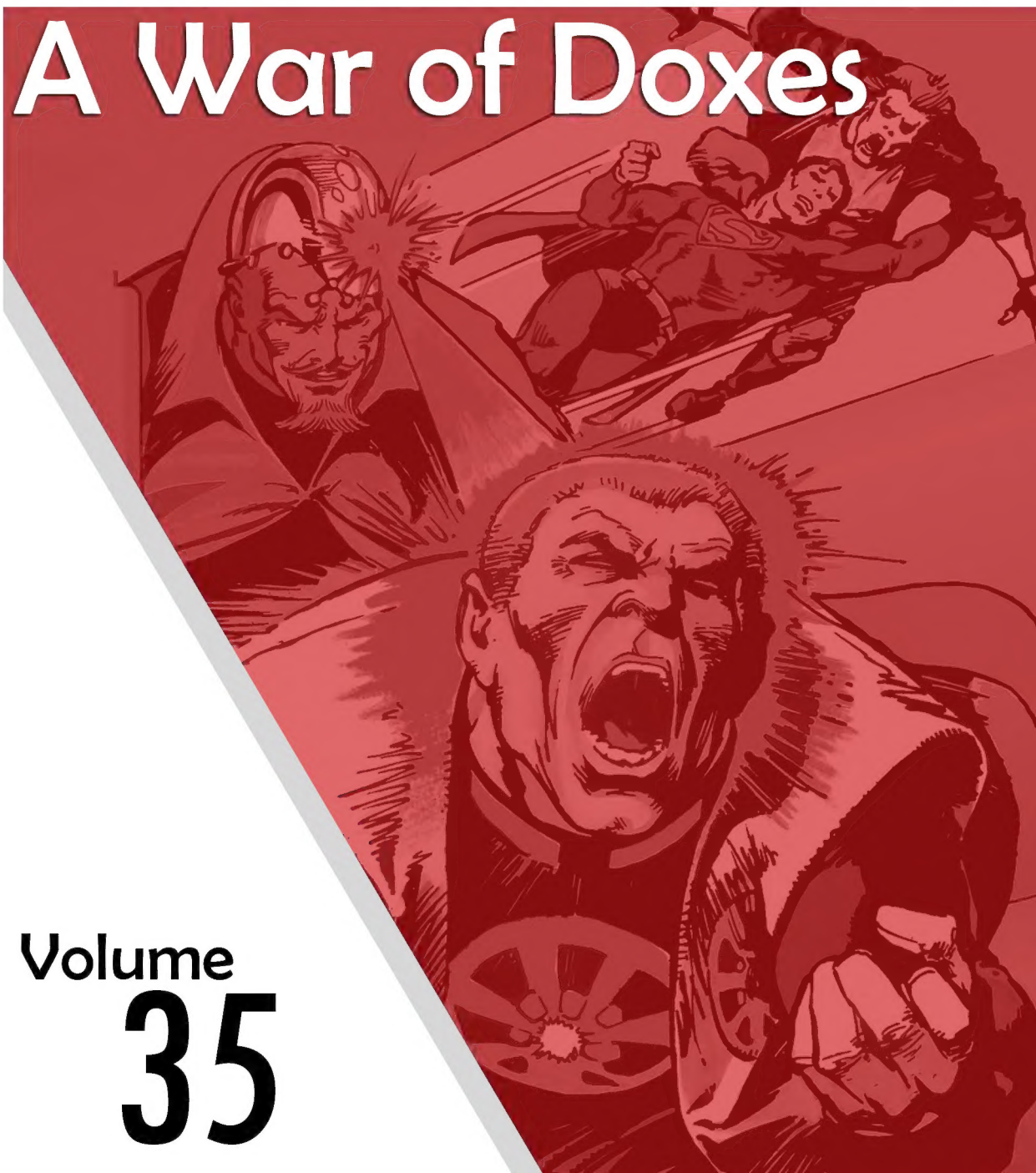
SUPERMAN

Post-CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS

A War of Doxes



Volume 35

SUPERMAN Post-CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS A War of Doxes 35

SUPERMAN®

Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

HERE SHE IS, GENTLEMEN! DIRECT FROM THE *MOON.*

I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU CAN *SUPPORT* HER LIKE THAT, BUT KEEP IT UP, A LITTLE MORE TOWARDS ME!

AIN'T DAT SOMETHIN'?

"AIN'T" ISN'T A WORD, SHORTY, BUT YES, YOU'RE RIGHT...

...SUPERMAN IS *STILL* THE GREATEST!

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THE EVIL FACTORY

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THE GREATEST? HE SHOULD'VE SEEN ME *YESTERDAY*, WHEN I WAS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF MY KRYPTONIAN *ARTIFACT!*

ONE MINUTE I'M LOCKED IN BATTLE ON LIBERTY ISLAND WITH A *GLADIATOR* FROM ANOTHER *GALAXY*...

...AND THE NEXT, THE TWO OF US, AND *HALF* OF LADY LIBERTY ARE ON THE *MOON*, TELEPORTED THERE BY PROFESSOR HAMILTON!

AND THOUGH THE PROFESSOR SCREWED UP, HE *DID* PREVENT ME FROM *KILLING* MY OPPONENT IN BATTLE!*

* *It happened in* ADVENTURES *#465.*

WITH MA AND PA'S HELP, THE ARTIFACT WAS DESTROYED*, AND EVERYTHING'S BACK TO *NORMAL* -- EXCEPT FOR THE STATUE.

* *As seen in* ACTION *#652*

WELDING THESE STEEL BEAMS TOGETHER WITH MY *HEAT* VISION WILL SECURE THE *INFRA-STRUCTURE* OF THE STATUE...

...SO THE WORKERS CAN SAFELY BEGIN RIVETING THE COPPER "*SKIN*" WHERE THE TWO HALVES MEET.

FOREMAN SAYS WE CAN START!

SUPES IS DONE WITH THE FRAME-WORK INSIDE, ALREADY?

IS THERE *ANYTHING ELSE* YOU WANT ME TO *DO*, SIR?

OH, NO, SUPERMAN. YOU'VE DONE *PLENTY!*

YOU MIGHT HAVE THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS LOOK OVER MY WELDING.

IT'S *NOT* MY REGULAR LINE OF *WORK*, AFTER ALL.

THEY'RE OVERSEEING *ALL* THE WORK. YOURS *AND* OURS!

THANKS AGAIN.

"YOU'RE REALLY ONE OF A KIND!"

BEAUTIFUL, SIMPLY *FLAWLESS*, MY DEAR MOKKARI.

OUR FINEST *OFFSPRING* YET, *SIMYAN*.

HE HAS GROWN *STRONG* AND *TALL*, THANKS TO OUR *GENETIC MANIP-ULATIONS!*

INDEED, AFTER MANY ATTEMPTS, WE ARE *PROUD PARENTS!*

PARENTS?!

YOU TWO ARE SECOND-RATE DOCTOR FRANKENSTEINS!

MRS. OLSEN, WE *LET* YOU WATCH...

...BUT YOUR *CONSTANT* PRATTLE IS *MOST* ANNOYING!

YOU HAVE *NOT* YET GROWN *TIRED* OF HER, SIMYAN?

AAHHHRGH!

I AM *STILL* AMUSED BY HER, FRIEND. *STOP!*

ZZZEKK

I DON'T FIND *ANYTHING* INTERESTING ABOUT *HER!*

AH, WELL, LET'S MOVE ON, SHALL WE?

SHE'S A LINK WITH OUR PAST, THE *MATE* OF COMMANDER OLSEN...

...OUR FIRST *HUMAN* CLONE SUBJECT!

YOU ARE *OVERLY* SENTIMENTAL.

CADMUS SENT *HIM* TO BRING *US* BACK THERE, AND HE DIED.

GET *OVER* IT ALREADY!

THE *OLSEN* WOMAN *IS* RIGHT, THOUGH. WE ARE NO MORE THAN *MIDWIVES* TO THIS *CLONE*.

THE PROGENY BELONGS TO THE *SUPERMAN!*

YES.

WE SENT OUR "*TERROR*" TO DISTRACT HIM, WHILE DRONES COLLECTED *TISSUE* SAMPLES...*

...FROM WHICH *WE'VE* PRODUCED A *HEALTHY* SPECIMEN.

HIS FLESHTONE BAFFLES ME, THOUGH.

* *SUPERMAN #40*

THE SUPERMAN MUST HAVE ABSORBED THE STRANGE RADIATION THAT WE FOUND PRESENT IN OUR "*TERROR*."

THE SAME *RADIATION* WE FOUND IN THE ROCK SURROUNDING US?

YES. WHEN I REMOVED IT FROM THE MATRIX, I COULD NO LONGER MOLD HIS CELL SAMPLE.

WE SHALL SEE WHAT EFFECT THAT WILL HAVE, IF ANY, FRIEND, AS THE *PENETRATOR BEAM* SENDS HIM ON HIS WAY.

AROO AROO AROO

OUR *SENSOR* ALARMS!

IT'S A *CRAFT* OF *CADMUS* DESIGN!

AROO AROO AROO

CANCEL THE *BEAM*-- WE MAY HAVE *NEED* OF THIS CLONE!

TOO *LATE*-- HE'S TOO FAR GONE...

"RELEASE 'TREVOR' FROM THE PEN, TO DISSUADE OUR GUESTS!"

SCOTLAND'S LOCH TREVOR IS DEAD AHEAD, JIMMY.

OUR READINGS INDICATED A TREMENDOUS ENERGY SURGE JUST BELOW GROUND LEVEL-- IT'S WHAT WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR!

I'M BETTING THAT WE'VE FOUND THE *EVIL FACTORY!*

I'LL FINALLY BE FACE TO FACE WITH *THEM!* I CAN'T *WAIT!*

I BROKE A LOT OF RULES JUST COMING HERE, LET ALONE BRINGING YOU ALONG, SO LISTEN TO ME...

...WE'RE GOING *IN* TO FREE YOUR MOTHER AND BRING MOKKARI AND SIMYAN BACK TO *CADMUS--ALIVE,* GOT IT?

UH, RIGHT, BUT DOES THE WATER LOOK *FUNNY* TO YOU?

GREAT DAY IN THE MORNING!!

SPLAAASH

"I GUESS THIS IS ONE OF THOSE DAYS YOU WISHED YOU NEVER LEFT YOUR APARTMENT."

JERRY WHITE! WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?

COME TO HELP ME *MOVE*?

I CAME BY TO WHINE ABOUT MY GIRLFRIEND *TAMMY*, BUT YOU'VE GOT IT WORSE THAN ME.

I WATCHED YOU BEING EVICTED!

DUDES WERE LOADING YOUR STUFF ON A TRUCK...

...I CONVINCED THEM TO LEAVE IT ON THE SIDEWALK.

LEXCORP BOUGHT THIS PLACE--I DIDN'T OPEN THE EVICTION NOTICE 'TIL YESTERDAY.

YEAH, I READ IT.

BUT *THIS* ONE LOOKS INTERESTING!

GIMME THAT!

OH. I'D *HOPED* IT WOULD BE FROM *LOIS.*

WOMAN TROUBLES *TOO*? GEEZ.

WELL, *WELL.* SOMEONE WANTS TO HIRE *ME!*

NOT *QUITE* MY LINE OF WORK--A *BODYGUARD.*

Dear Mr. Delgado,

I wish to hire you on a basis for the purpose of

my ex-wife, Catherine Gran

young son, Adam. As you may k

following the media, she

witness for the prosecutors

upcoming trial of Morgan Edge.

While the police have agr

provide protection, I feel a man

abilities is essential in a

against any super-powered

aimed at them from an organiz

such as Intergang. Edge's ties to

a matter of public record now.

ou would be doing a great servic

should you accept my offer

lling to pay a sum of one thous

ollers per day, plus any legitim

expens

Pleas

listed at th

surely ma

MONARCH

MR. JOSEPH MORGAN

PRESIDENT

MR. JOSE DELGADO

MONEY'S *GOOD*, THOUGH, AND I *DO* NEED A PLACE TO STAY...

AHH, I'LL CALL. WHAT'S THERE TO LOSE?

CAN I BORROW A *QUARTER?*

BOY, YOU REALLY *ARE* TAPPED OUT!

HELLO. MY NAME IS JOSE DELGADO. MAY I SPEAK TO MR. JOE MORGAN?

HE'S *EXPECTING* MY CALL? GREAT.

Phone

PHONE

"IS IT *REALLY* HIM?"

"HE'S BACK, ISN'T HE?

"I THINK SO."

DAILY PLANET

WHAT ARE THEY DOING IN *THERE*?

?

INVASION

WHY'S EVERYONE HUDDLING AROUND THE CHIEF'S OFFICE?

PERRY WHITE EDITOR

DAILY

STATUE OF LIBERTY ON MOON

HAVEN'T YOU *HEARD*, LOIS? PERRY'S TALKING WITH--

EH?

WHAT'RE YOU ALL STANDING AROUND FOR?

OH, OKAY. CLARK KENT IS *BACK* WHERE HE *BELONGS*, ON THE 'PLANET!

NOW YOU CAN *ALL* GO BACK TO *WORK*!

UH, I'LL JUST BE ON A *FREE-LANCE* BASIS FOR THE PRESENT.

MY EXPERIENCE AS EDITOR OF *NEWSTIME* MAGAZINE KIND OF KILLED MY ENTHUSIASM FOR THE *NINE-TO-FIVE* ROUTINE...

BEING *FIRED* CAN *DO* THAT TO A FELLOW!

-; AHEM ;- LET'S ALL GET BACK *TO IT*, OKAY?

LOIS, *WAIT!*

ONE OF THE THINGS I MISSED AT NEWSTIME WERE THE FRIENDSHIPS I HAD *HERE*.

FRIENDSHIPS? I DON'T THINK SO. YOU MEAN "*WORK RELATION-SHIPS*," DON'T YOU?

NO SMOKE

YOU KNOW--YOU *LEAVE* A JOB YOU'VE HAD FOR A *LONG* TIME, TELL YOUR CO-WORKERS THAT YOU'LL KEEP IN TOUCH...

...BUT YOU *NEVER* DO FIND THE TIME! IT HAPPENS TO SCHOOL "*FRIENDS*" ALL THE TIME, KENT.

LOIS, I *REALLY* MEANT TO KEEP IN TOUCH...

DON'T PULL *THAT* ONE ON ME!

I LOOKED *YOU* UP, TO SEE HOW YOU WERE DOING! YOU WERE DOWNRIGHT *RUDE* TO ME!

YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT, AND I'M *APOLOGIZING* TO YOU *NOW.*

EVERYONE, INCLUDING MY FOLKS, WAS BEING SHUT OUT OF MY LIFE. I--WASN'T *MYSELF!*

I REACHED OUT TO YOU-- YOU *TURNED ME AWAY.*

I'M REACHING OUT *NOW. PLEASE* DON'T TURN *ME* AWAY, LOIS.

I--OH DAMN.

WELCOME BACK...

...YOU SWINE.

OF COURSE, I MEANT THAT IN THE *NICEST* WAY.

OF COURSE! WOULD YOU BE AVERSE TO CONTINUING *THIS* OVER DINNER SOME-TIME?

THAT *COULD* BE ARRANGED.

HEY EVERYBODY! THERE'S A CROWD OF PEOPLE IN THE STREET POINTING UP TO THE ROOFTOP!

WONDER WHAT'S WRONG *NOW?*

"THAT'S NOT A BIRD..."

"SURE ISN'T AN AIRPLANE..."

"SAY, YOU DON'T SUPPOSE IT'S HIM?"

"YOU MEAN SUPERMAN?"

"NAHH! THAT AIN'T NO SUPERMAN!"

DAILY PLANET

THE PENETRATOR BEAM'S RESIDUAL ENERGY CRACKLES AND FADES AROUND THIS MAGNIFICENT EMERALD CREATURE.

FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME, HE FEELS THE SUN'S WARMTH ON HIS FACE...

...A FACE HE SHARES WITH ANOTHER...

...THE CHAMPION OF METROPOLIS.

HE'S COME TO KILL THE SUPERMAN!

AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT THE VOICES IN HIS HEAD SAY.

CAN I HELP YOU WITH SOMETHING?

TO ROOF

:!:

WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON? YOU LOOK EXACTLY LIKE *ME!*

"*THE RADIATION ISN'T AFFECTING HIM AT ALL.*"

"*SUPERMAN WAS IN CONVULSIONS WHEN HE WAS THIS CLOSE TO OUR 'TERROR'!*"

MATRIX? IS THAT YOU?

NO, MY *MICROSCOPIC* VISION TELLS ME OTHER-WISE...

EXCEPT FOR YOUR PIGMENT, YOU'RE *ME!*

"*THE ADVANTAGE IS NO LONGER YOURS, NUMBER TWO. YOU MUST KILL SUPERMAN WITHOUT DELAY!*"

I WAS ONCE-- A *PART* OF YOU...

...FATHER.

THEY'VE CALLED ME NUMBER TWO.

"*SIMYAN, NUMBER TWO WILL NOT FOLLOW MY WISHES!*"

FATHER?

WAIT A SECOND. BACK UP AND EXPLAIN YOURSELF.

WHO SENT YOU?

WHAT DO YOU *WANT* FROM *ME?*

"*LISTEN TO ME, NUMBER TWO. YOU MUST KILL HIM.*"

I AM HERE TO LEARN ALL ABOUT YOU. THEN YOU WILL HAVE TO *DIE.*

ANOTHER ONE WHO WANTS TO KILL ME? IS THERE A *FACTORY* SOMEWHERE MASS-PRODUCING THESE GUYS OR WHAT?

IF YOU WANT ME *DEAD*, YOU'LL HAVE TO *CATCH* ME FIRST.

"*USE YOUR SPECIAL ABILITIES --BUT BRING HIM DOWN!*"

DARN IT! I WAS GETTING USED TO A CAPE THAT DIDN'T BURN!

HE SEEMS TO SHARE MY POWERS AS WELL. COULD HE BE FROM CADMUS?

FWOOSH

THEY WOULDN'T JUST CLONE ME, WOULD THEY? WELL, LET'S SEE HOW WELL HE THINKS ON THE RUN!

BOOM!

BOOM

"SIMYAN, YOU ARE MUCH BETTER AT THIS THAN I."

TOOK ME A LOT OF PRACTICE TO LEARN THIS MOVE!

WELL, THAT BUILDING WAS SCHEDULED FOR DEMOLITION TOMORROW ANYWAY!

SMASH!

"SIMYAN, HE NEEDS YOUR CUNNING, YOUR AGGRESSIVENESS, TO BEAT SUPERMAN!"

QUICK SWEEP WITH MY X-RAY VISION SHOWED THE PREMISES EMPTY-- EXCEPT NOW FOR MY DOUBLE.

HE SHOULD BE STUNNED FOR THE MOMENT...

...BUT WHAT AM I GOING TO DO WITH HIM?

"MOKKARI, MY DEAR FELLOW, MY HANDS ARE FULL DIRECTING A DEFENSE AGAINST OUR ATTACKERS, HERE AT HOME..."

"THEY SEEM TO HAVE COME PREPARED."

WE'VE MANAGED TO EVADE THAT *MONSTER* SO FAR, BUT LET'S SEE HOW IT *LIKES* THESE!

FWOOM

FWOOM

SHE THINKS SHE CAN GET *AWAY* BY DIVING UNDER-WATER, BUT I'VE GOT JUST THE THING FOR THAT!

SPLAASH

IS THERE *ANYTHING* THIS SHIP *WON'T* DO?

I BET IT DOESN'T GET *TWENTY* MILES TO THE GALLON!

THE "*HAIRIES*" DO GOOD WORK, JIM!

THESE DEPTH CHARGES SHOULD PUT IT TO SLEEP!

YAHOO!

SHOOM

SIMYAN, *PLEASE*. I AM IN NEED OF YOUR GUIDANCE!

MOKKARI, I'VE *TOLD* YOU, MY AGENDA IS FULL! THE *CADMUS* ATTACKERS HAVE BEATEN *TREVOR*!

I HAVE A *SOLUTION* TO BOTH OUR PROBLEMS, THOUGH!

SET THE PENETRATOR BEAM TO *RETRIEVE* NUMBER TWO FROM *METROPOLIS*...

I'LL THEN LEAD HIM AGAINST THESE ATTACKERS!

"I ONLY WISH YOU HADN'T BEEN SO QUICK TO *DISPOSE* OF OUR 'TERROR', AS HE WOULD BE HELPFUL *NOW*."

"AH, WELL, LOT NUMBER THIRTY SHOULD OCCUPY THEM FOR NOW!"

WHUMP!

WE'VE BEEN *BROAD-SIDED*!

HOLY GEEZ!

RAWWK!

NOW *THERE'S* A SIGHT YOU DON'T SEE EVERY DAY--!

EXCEPT IN MYTHOLOGY BOOKS!

CRASHH

JIM! HE'S BLINDED US!

KICK OUT THE WINDSHIELD, AND GRAB A *BLASTER!*

THAT'S *IT*, TAKE THAT UGLY MUG *OUT!*

RAWR!

ZZAAP!

BLAST IT! WHERE IS *NUMBER TWO*, MOKKARI?

WE *NEED* HIM OUT THERE *NOW!*

DON'T *FRET*, CHUM! HE'S ON THE WAY!

"*NUMBER TWO--IT'S TIME TO RETURN TO THE NEST! PREPARE YOURSELF.*

NO! I DON'T WANT TO *LEAVE!* I *LIKE* BEING IN THE *OPEN!*

WHOA! HE'S SUDDENLY COME TO LIFE...

NO ONE'S TAKING YOU ANYWHERE. CALM DOWN, BUDDY!

"YOU'RE NEEDED."

NO, NO! I WANT MORE TIME!

DON'T LET THEM TAKE ME BACK!

WE'RE BOTH BEING ENVELOPED BY THE VORTEX -- AND I'VE SEEN THIS EFFECT BEFORE!

THAT FOUR-ARMED TERROR THAT ATTACKED ME A WHILE BACK!

IT VANISHED IN ONE OF THESE!

ZZZZZSSSH

FEELS LIKE I'M BEING TORN APART...

"SIMYAN! THE RETRIEVAL BEAM HAS TWO PASSENGERS!"

ZZZSSSHH

"THE ATOMS OF ONE OF THEM WON'T SURVIVE THE RIDE!"

YAAAAAA! SO COLD--SO COLD...

WE'RE STARTING TO REMATERIALIZE -- BUT NEITHER OF US IS WHOLE!

HOLD ON, TWO...

NO, BETTER TO HAVE MY ATOMS SCATTERED THAN TO RETURN TO THEM...

FAREWELL... SUPERMAN...

GONE... SOMEONE CREATES THIS "NUMBER TWO" TO FACE ME, AND THEN CHANGES THEIR MIND AND RECALLS HIM?

TO WHAT PURPOSE? JUST WHO OR WHAT AM I DEALING WITH HERE?

WELL IT'S THEIR MISFORTUNE TO TELEPORT ME HERE, INTO THEIR MIDST.

THAT SHIP--

THOSE ARE CADMUS MARKINGS ON IT!

THE *GUARDIAN* AND JIMMY OLSEN?

WHAT'S GOING DOWN HERE?

BUTT OUT--THIS IS *OUR* FIGHT!

JIMMY'S *MOTHER* IS BEING HELD...

...BY TWO *ESCAPEES* FROM THE PROJECT!

KE-RASH

THEIR VEHICLE JUST CRASHED ON *TOP* OF US, MOKKARI!

WE'VE *LOST* NUMBER TWO, THANKS TO SUPERMAN...

...OUR STRONGHOLD IS COLLAPSING AROUND OUR *EARS*...

...TIME TO *RUN AWAY!*

WE'LL RIDE THE PENETRATOR BEAM TO SAFETY!

YEL-LO!

I'M *FREE!*

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, BOYS!

THAT *OLSEN* WOMAN-- *FREE??* OH, I'LL GET YOU FOR *THIS*, FRIEND!

IF YOU "*LITTLE*" *MONSTERS*" WERE AS *SMART* AS YOU *THINK* YOU ARE...

YIKES!

"*YOU WOULD'VE PICKED ON SOMEBODY YOUR OWN SIZE!*"

I'M LANDING THIS *DEAL*, SO I CAN FIND A WAY INTO --

YOWW!

BRANCHES DIDN'T SHAKE THEM OFF!

WHAT *NOW?* *A CAVEMAN?*

THERE'S *ONE* MONKEY OFF *MY* BACK!

SOMEHOW I DON'T THINK THIS GUY'S GOING TO POINT ME TO AN ENTRANCE!

BAM!

HARUCK!

SOUNDED LIKE HE HIT *METAL*, THAT TIME!

CLANG

THANKS FOR POINTING OUT THE "*DOOR*" TO ME, HAIR BALL!

THOSE TWO SUPER-DUDES CAN DANCE AROUND UP THERE...

...I'M GOING TO *FIND* MY *MOM*!

HATE TO DO THIS--THESE PTERODACTYLS AREN'T THE REAL *MONSTERS* HERE...

I'LL RESERVE *THAT* HONOR FOR THEIR CREATORS.

CONK!

HEY, *SUPERMAN*! HOW ABOUT SOME *HELP* OVER HERE?

GLAD TO, GUARDIAN, BUT YOU'D BETTER CLUE ME IN TO WHAT WE'RE UP AGAINST HERE!

POW

I'M GETTING AWFUL TIRED OF THROWING PUNCHES AROUND!

YOUR *RUNAWAYS*-- ARE THEY *HUMAN*?

MOKKARI AND SIMYAN ARE PRODUCTS OF DABNEY DONOVAN, A CADMUS SCIENTIST...

THEY WERE *CREATED* TO CARRY ON DONOVAN'S WORK AFTER HIS DEATH --

"--AND THEY MAKE DONOVAN LOOK LIKE A PIKER!"

SHE'S DESTROYED OUR TELEPORTER!

THE Z-RAY WILL DISPOSE OF HER!

UH-UH, YOU SLEAZE-BALLS! I'VE SEEN THIS USED TOO MANY TIMES!

NO, TAKE HIM-- HE NEVER LIKED YOU!

THIS GUN WAS USED ON ALL OF YOUR FAILURES -- YOUR ABOMINATIONS...

SO NOW I'M USING IT ON YOU!

YOU WERE MY FAVORITE...

AIEEE--!

THIS RAT TRAP IS FALLING DOWN AROUND MY EARS--;UGHN;

MOM!

OH, GOD, MOM, I'LL GET YOU OUT OF HERE!

JIMMY-- I CAN'T BELIEVE;

I'VE GOT YOU, SON.

WE HAVE TO HURRY!

KABOOM!

ONLY HAD TIME FOR A QUICK *SCAN*, BUT DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING ELSE STILL *ALIVE* IN THERE!

MRS. OLSEN, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR CAPTORS?

EASY, GUARDIAN. LET HER CATCH HER BREATH!

NO, JIMMY, I'M ALL RIGHT *NOW*.

MOKKARI AND SIMYAN ARE *DEAD*-- I TURNED THEIR *OWN* WEAPON ON THEM!

AFTER *ALL* THEY DID TO *ME*--TO JIMMY'S FATHER--DON'T TELL ME THEY DIDN'T *DESERVE IT!*

WHAT *ABOUT* DAD?

I'D BEEN SEARCHING FOR SOME TIME, WHEN I *FINALLY* GOT A SOLID LEAD ON HIS WHEREABOUTS.

A FRIEND OF HIS IN THE MILITARY GOT WORD FROM JAKE IN LONDON--HE WAS IN TROUBLE...

"WELL, I SET OFF FOR LONDON AND BEGAN MAKING THE ROUNDS--CUSTOMS, SCOTLAND YARD, OUR EMBASSY. THEN ONE DAY..."

JAKE? JAMES OLSEN?

"I HADN'T SEEN HIM IN TWENTY YEARS, BUT THERE WAS NO MISTAKING IT! I'D FOUND HIM!"

DON'T YOU *KNOW* ME?

"THERE WERE TWO OF HIM, AND NEITHER ONE WAS REALLY YOUR FATHER!

DELIVERIES IN BACK

"THEY WERE THE HANDI-WORK OF THE EVIL FACTORY. I WAS A CAPTIVE OF THEIRS ALL THIS TIME..."

...UNTIL TODAY!

OH DEAR GOD, JIMMY, I KNEW YOU'D COME FOR ME!

MOM, I MET ONE OF THOSE CLONES OF DAD...

THE CADMUS BOYS SCREWED UP BIG TIME, BY LETTING THIS GO ON SO LONG!

THEY'LL HAVE TO ANSWER FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO COMMANDER OLSEN AND HIS FAMILY...

THEY KNEW ABOUT THE COMMANDER'S DISAPPEARANCE, BUT REFUSED TO ACT ON IT. THEY SAID IT WAS A MILITARY MATTER!

I EXPECT I'LL BE DISCIPLINED FOR MY ACTIONS TODAY...

IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO...?

IT'S MY CONCERN, BUT THANKS.

GETTING THEIR HANDS ON THESE CREATIONS SHOULD MAKE THEM HAPPY.

TRUE. CADMUS ISN'T ALLOWED TO CREATE THINGS LIKE THIS.

SAY, THESE ROCKS HERE RESEMBLE KRYPTONITE!

GOVERNMENT RESTRICTIONS.

IT HAS THE SAME STRUCTURE AS KRYPTONITE, BUT IT'S NOT AFFECTING ME!

I'D BETTER TAKE A SAMPLE BACK FOR PROFESSOR HAMILTON TO EXAMINE.

ARE YOU SURE IT'S SAFE TO HANDLE THAT STUFF?

GUARDIAN, COME HERE!

WHAT IS IT?

THOSE TWO GUYS MAY NOT BE *DEAD!*

BUT THE WEAPON THAT I USED ON THEM...

REMEMBER WHEN I WAS TRAPPED IN THAT "*VOID*" PLACE?*

THEY USED IT ON ANYTHING THEY WANTED TO DISPOSE OF...

...JUNK MACHINERY, GENETIC MISTAKES, AND EVEN THOSE CLONES OF JAKE OLSEN! SURELY...

THAT PLACE WAS FULL OF FLOATING DEBRIS, AND CREATURES LIKE WE FOUGHT WITH TODAY.

THAT'S WHERE DAD'S CLONE TOLD ME HOW TO FIND MOM!

* In Issue 39

"DIG THIS: THE Z-RAY WASN'T TRASHING ITS TARGETS..."

WE'RE STILL *ALIVE!*

MEAT?

"MAYBE IT SIMPLY TELEPORTED THEM SOMEWHERE, LIKE THE COLORLESS VOID-PLACE?"

MEAT.

OH, DEAR...

MEAT!

"POETIC JUSTICE--MOKKARI AND SIMYAN AT THE MERCY OF THEIR OWN CASTAWAYS!"

MEAT!

MEAT!

MEAT!

MEAT!

AIEEEE

MEAT!

MEAT!

MEAT!

MEAT!

THIS LOOKS LIKE A JOB FOR...

NEXT IN
ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #466
"THE LIMITS OF POWER"

THEN IN
ACTION #653
BE HERE FOR
"LOVE and DEATH."

AND THEN COME BACK TO **SUPERMAN** FOR PART ONE OF "**DARK KNIGHT OVER METROPOLIS**" starring...
(DO WE REALLY HAVE TO TELL YA?)

THE TENSION FILLED NASA TRACKING CENTER IN HOUSTON.

ANY SIGN OF TEAM EXCALIBUR YET?

NOTHING. NADA. ZIP.

THAT EXPLOSION ON BOARD MAY HAVE FORCED THEM INTO A CONDITION RED RE-ENTRY, BUT LET'S FACE IT--

C'MON, GARRISON, PULL THAT NOSE UP!

WHATCHA THINK I'M TRYIN' TA DO?

"--THEIR INCOMING TRAJECTORY WAS FAR TOO SHARP! CHANCES ARE THE EXCALIBUR HAS BURNED UP BY NOW!"

WELL, TRY HARDER! IF YOU DON'T--

WHAT STEVEN IS TRYING TO EXPLAIN, JIM, IS THAT ONE WAY OR ANOTHER WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU TO--

SHADDUP WILLYA?! THIS WEIRD RADIATION'S EATIN' AWAY AT EVERY CONTROL--

--AND THE SHIP IS SHAKIN' MORE THAN A HULA DANCER ON A BUCKIN' BRONCO! SO LEAVE ME ALONE--

--AND CLIMB INTO THOSE SURVIVAL SUITS WHILE YOU GOT THE CHANCE!

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SUPERMAN®

The LIMITS of POWER

Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

DAN JURGENS
STORY AND LAYOUTS

FINISHES: "SLUDD" GIORDANO
LETTERER: ALBERT DE GUZMAN
COLORIST: GLENN WHITMORE
LT. HONCHO: JON PETERSON
HONCHO: MIKE CARLIN

T-TERRI?

TERRI?

O-OVER HERE-- HANK...

DARLING! PLEASE, TELL ME YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!

I-I THINK SO... BUT YOUR HAIR! IT'S TURNED COMPLETELY WHITE! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

I WOULD IMAGINE THE RADIATION CAUSED IT WHEN IT BROKE CONTAINMENT.

HAVE YOU SEEN ANYTHING OF JIM OR STEVEN?

HELP!

HELP ME!

IT CAN'T BE--

--BUT THAT'S STEVEN'S VOICE!

SORT OF.

HANK, WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S HAPPENED TO STEVEN?

A PHENOMENON SO WILD AND STARTLING I'D NOT THOUGHT IT POSSIBLE!

THOSE RADIATION EXPERIMENTS WE WERE PERFORMING ON BOARD HAVE SOMEHOW *MUTATED* HIM!

FEEL SO-- STRANGE-- LIKE I'M NOT EVEN HERE...

I CAN ONLY SPECULATE AT THIS POINT, BUT IT'S ENTIRELY POSSIBLE YOU ARE NOW WITHOUT MASS.

THE RADIATION MUST HAVE RIFLED THROUGH YOUR BODY WHEN IT WAS DESTROYED IN THE CRASH! YET MIRACULOUSLY YOUR *MIND* SURVIVED--

--AND SOMEHOW FORMED THAT RADIATION INTO A NEW BODY!

GET OUTTA HERE! YOU MEAN I'M--

--*RADIOACTIVE*?!

CAN'T YOU *DO* SOMETHING ABOUT IT?

HMM... IF I HAD ACCESS TO *NASA'S* LABS--

OH, MAN! AM I GONNA BE OKAY? AM I GONNA DIE?

WAIT A MINUTE! WHERE'S JIM?

FAN OUT-- WE *MUST* FIND HIM QUICKLY!

OH... GOD... NO...

AWWW... NOT HIM TOO!

OH--

--JIM?

TEAM EXCALIBUR

MFFF

NASA

BY THE STARS, MAN--

--WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU?

TELL ME THAT'S NOT YOU, JIM... SAY SOMETHING... ANYTH--

NNNGH

NO...! JIM... ARE YOU--

NASA

VECTO

HANK, LOOK AT HIM... HE'S *OBVIOUSLY* IN PAIN! BUT WE CAN'T POSSIBLY HELP HIM --

--WHEN WE CAN'T EXPLAIN HOW WE EVEN SURVIVED!

INDEED. BOTH JIM AND STEVE SHOULD HAVE EXPIRED IN THAT CRASH.

HOWEVER, JUST AS STEVEN SOMEHOW REASSEMBLED A BODY OUT OF RADIATION--

--JIM'S MIND USED ROCK, GRAVEL, BRANCHES AND THE WRECKAGE OF THE SHUTTLE TO DO THE SAME.

SEEMINGLY AN IMPOSSIBLE FEAT, YET THE EVIDENCE IS CLEAR.

THIS IS ALL THEORY, OF COURSE, BUT REMEMBER THAT WE *WERE* EXPERIMENTING WITH THAT RADIATION WHEN WE RAN INTO TROUBLE.

AND IT HAD FANTASTIC PROPERTIES WHICH DEVIATED FROM ANYTHING WE'D SEEN BEFORE. ADD THE SOLAR FLARES--

AND WE WERE ALL AFFECTED SOMEHOW! WHAT NOW?

PROPRIETY DEMANDS RETURNING TO *NASA*--

--BUT WE HAVEN'T THE TIME! CONSIDERING IT WAS A *LEXCORP* BUILT EXPERIMENT, I SAY WE HEAD TO METROPOLIS.

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, THE LEXCORP EQUIPMENT TROUBLED ME FROM THE START!

HEY, GANG, CATCH THIS!

NOT ONLY CAN I FLY, BUT I CAN CREATE A *PLATFORM* FOR YOU TO RIDE ON!

OF COURSE, SINCE YOU LACK A CONVENTIONAL PHYSICAL PRESENCE, YOUR NEW ABILITIES SHOULD BE LIMITLESS.

HONEY, ARE YOU SURE WE'RE DOING THE RIGHT THING?

UNDOUBTEDLY. JIM'S AGONY IS SO SEVERE I DOUBT HE CAN SURVIVE LONG.

NOT TO MENTION THE RADIATION SICKNESS I CAN FEEL EATING ITS WAY INTO ME. BUT I CAN'T LET THEM KNOW--

--JUST HOW SLIM OUR CHANCES MIGHT BE.

ALL RIGHT, STEVEN, NEXT STOP--

NASA

United

"--METROPOLIS!"

HEY, YOU KNOW I GOT NOTHING AGAINST THE GUY, LOIS!

IT JUST REALLY BOWLS ME OVER TO THINK YOU'RE COOKING THIS FIVE-STAR DINNER FOR--

--CLARK KENT!

YOU KNOW, LITTLE SISTER, I ALWAYS THOUGHT FLIGHT ATTENDANTS WERE SUPPOSED TO BE POLITE AND TACTFUL!

WE'RE NOT ON A 747, LOIS!

BINGO! AND THIS DINNER IS JUST FOR TWO!

SO, UNLESS YOU PLAN TO SERVE IT TO US--

BING BONG

HI, LUCY! I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE JOINING US TONIGHT!

LOOOIS, MR. RIGHT IS HERE!

LUCY!

OOOPS! SOUNDS LIKE MY CUE TO GO! SEE YOU, KIDS!

HMM... SEEING CLARK REMINDS ME OF SOMEONE I HAVEN'T SEEN IN A LONG TIME!

JIMMY OLSEN AND I HAD SOME PRETTY GOOD TIMES TOGETHER! MAYBE IT'S TIME I LOOK HIM UP!

IT'S REALLY NICE OF YOU TO HAVE ME OVER, LOIS. DESPITE MA'S EFFORTS AT TEACHING ME--

--I'M NOT MUCH OF A COOK. AS FOR OUR... RELATIONSHIP...

UGH--I HATE THAT WORD! LET'S JUST KEEP THINGS LIGHT AND SEE WHERE THE TIDE TAKES US, OKAY?

BING BONG

LOOKS LIKE LUCY FORGOT HER KEYS AGAIN!

2210

OH!

IT'S YOU!

SORRY TO INTERRUPT, BUT I KNEW YOU WANTED TO STUDY THESE PAPERS BEFORE MONDAY, LOIS!

GLAD TO, PERRY, STARTING *TOMORROW.*

HI, PERRY. YOU AND ALICE ARE LOOKING GOOD AS EVER!

WE'LL GET OUT OF YOUR WAY, NOW, LOIS.

GOODBYE, MR. KENT.

UHH... NICE SEEING YOU, ALICE. IT'S BEEN A WHILE.

YOU SHOULD HAVE EXPECTED THAT WHEN YOU *STABBED* MY HUSBAND IN THE *BACK*, MR. KENT!

HUH?

YOU HEARD ME, *MR. NEWSTIME!*

PERRY TOOK YOUR ROOKIE MIND OFF THE STREETS AND MOLDED IT INTO A WRITER'S!

B-B-BUT--

SO HOW DO YOU PAY HIM BACK? YOU NOT ONLY *QUIT*, BUT YOU HAVE THE GALL TO COME CRAWLING BACK *BEGGING* FOR MERCY!

"YOU, MR. KENT, ARE A REAL STINKER!"

THIS IS *RIDICULOUS!* MEETING RIGHT OUT HERE IN THE OPEN LIKE THIS!

IF ANYONE SPOTS ME--MORGAN EDGE, *ALLEGED* CRIMINAL --TALKING TO YOU-- MANNHEIM, *RUMORED* HEAD OF INTERGANG--

--THEY'LL PUT THE TWO OF US BEHIND BARS UNTIL THE NEXT *ICE AGE!*

INTERGANG WAS DOING FINE BEFORE WE HOOKED UP WITH YOU, EDGE... AND *WE'LL* BE FINE EVEN IF THEY NAIL *YOU* TO THE WALL!

THAT REMAINS TO BE SEEN. THE PROSE-CUTION HASN'T PROVEN *ANYTHING* YET.

AND, AGAINST OUR BETTER JUDGMENT, WE'VE TAKEN STEPS TO KEEP IT THAT WAY!

SO JUST PLAY DUMB AND YOU'LL COME OUT OF THIS SMELLIN' LIKE A ROSE.

LISTEN UGLY... I DON'T NEED YOUR HELP!

THE NAME'S MANNHEIM-- AND I'M ON *YOUR* SIDE!

DON'T FORGET THAT--

--AND *WE* WON'T!

I DON'T WANT ANYONE *HIT*-- I CAN'T AFFORD IT!

YOU *HAD* AN EQUAL SAY AT ONE POINT-- NOW *WE'RE* CALLIN' THE SHOTS!

SO IF I WAS YOU, I'D STEER CLEAR OF CAT GRANT AND *ALL* HER FRIENDS--

--DO THAT, AND YOU'LL GET OFF *SCOT* FREE!

NO WITNESSES... NO TESTIMONIES... NO *CONVICTIONS*!

HERE WE ARE, GANG! LEXCORP, METROPOLIS!

I JUST PRAY WE STILL HAVE TIME! EVEN HANK IS LOOKING SICK NOW!

INDEED. THAT RADIATION IS FINALLY STARTING TO TAKE ITS TOLL ON ME.

I WONDER--WILL ITS EFFECTS BE SIMILAR TO JIM'S AND STEVE'S--

--OR WILL IT BE SOMETHING ALTOGETHER DIFFERENT?

NO MATTER. WE CAN ONLY CONCERN OURSELVES WITH THE PRESENT.

HEY, I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU FREAKOS ARE DOIN' HERE, BUT IF YOU'RE SMART YOU'LL FREEZE BEFORE I BLAST YA!

THIS HERE IS LEXCORP PRIVATE PROPERTY AND WE GOT STRICT ORDERS TO BURN VIOLATORS!

AW. KNOCK OFF THE DEPUTY ACT, BARNEY!

IT IS ABSOLUTELY IMPERATIVE THAT WE GAIN ACCESS TO THIS COMPLEX'S RADIATION LABORATORY--

--AND PERHAPS CONSULT WITH LEX LUTHOR HIMSELF!

YOU GOTTA BETTER CHANCE OF SEEIN' ELVIS AT GRACELAND! NOW, TAKE MAN-MOUNTAIN-MIKE HERE AND BEAT IT!

LIVES ARE AT STAKE HERE, MAN! DON'T FORCE US TO HAVE TO BREAK IN!

LEXCORP SECURITY CENTER TO SENTRY TWO!

MOVE AWAY FROM THOSE FOLKS FAST! SENSORS SHOW THEY'RE CONTAMINATED WITH RADIATION THAT GOES OFF THE SCALE!

R--R--RADIATION?

LISSEN, CALL UP THOSE GUYS IN THE G-LEVEL WARSUITS PRONTO...

"...CUZ I'M OUTTA HERE!"

TELEPHONE CALL FOR YOU, PERRY. IT'S THE CITY DESK.

OKAY, LESTER, SHOOT.

FOUR RADIOACTIVE PARANORMALS ARE INVADING LEXCORP?! WOW!

SEND THE BEST PHOTOGRAPHER YOU CAN FIND! I'M ON MY WAY!

C'MON, LOIS! LET'S HIT THE STREETS!

LOOK, CLARK, SOMEONE HAS TO STAY AND WATCH DINNER AND SINCE YOU'RE JUST A FREELANCER--

--PUH-LEASE BE A DEAR AND DO THAT? CIAO!

SURE, LOIS, WHATEVER YOU WANT.

RIGHT.

KIND OF SURPRISED THAT PERRY DIDN'T ASK ME TO JOIN THEM.

WAS IT BECAUSE I'M NO LONGER ON STAFF?

OR DOES HE FEEL THE SAME ABOUT ME AS HIS WIFE DOES?

GUESS I WOULDN'T BLAME HIM IF HE DID.

THOSE THINGS SHE SAID REALLY STRUCK HOME--AND I HAD IT COMING!

I TREATED PERRY PRETTY BAD --MORE THAN I'D--HEY!

THERE REALLY ARE SOME PARANORMALS TRYING TO BREAK INTO LEXCORP!

BETTER BE CAREFUL HERE--IF THESE GUYS HAVE A GRUDGE AGAINST LUTHOR IT'S QUITE POSSIBLE THEY MIGHT BE JUSTIFIED IN THEIR ACTIONS!

NOW, EVERYBODY COOL IT UNTIL I FIGURE OUT WHAT THE HECK'S GOING ON HERE!

SUPERMAN?!

NO--LOOKS LIKE LUTHOR'S GOON IS GONNA BLAST HIM WITH THAT WRIST GAUNTLET!

DON'T KNOW IF SUPERMAN IS TOUGH ENOUGH TO TAKE IT--

--WHICH MEANS I GOTTA NAIL THAT CLOWN *FIRST!*

BLAST! SUPERMAN MOVED RIGHT IN MY LINE OF FIRE! HE'S GONNA BE TICKED OFF NOW!

HEY!

UH-OH...

LOOK, HANK! SUPERMAN'S ARRIVED!

IF WE CAN JUST GET HIM TO HELP US WE MIGHT IMPROVE OUR ODDS!

INDEED! BUT WILL HE LISTEN TO FOUR APPARENT LAW BREAKERS?

Tectron Excalibur

OH, NO! GARRISON'S INADVERTENTLY HURLED THE GUARD RIGHT AT THE MAN OF STEEL! WE'RE DOOMED!

BIZARRE-- BOTH SIDES ARE OUT TO ATTACK ME--

--AND A COUPLE OF THESE PEOPLE ARE EVEN WEARING *NASA* SURVIVAL SUITS!

BKAMMM

SUPERMAN'S SCREWED EVERYTHING UP! WE'RE NEVER GONNA GET INSIDE AND GET CURED--

--UNLESS I GET HIM AND ALL THESE GUARDS OUTTA HERE!

I'VE HAD IT WITH ALL OF YOU! CAN'T YOU JUST LEAVE US ALONE?

CAN'T YOU GET OFF OUR BACKS?

THE PRESSURE AND RADIATION HAVE FINALLY GOTTEN TO STEVEN!

HE'S DISTRAUGHT--ALMOST COMPLETELY BERSERK!

I SAID LEAVE US ALONE!

BEAT IT!

I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS GUY--

--BEFORE THIS RADIATION OUTPUT CONTAMINATES HALF OF METROPOLIS!

IF I CAN'T GET RID OF HIM I'LL HAVE TO CONTAIN HIM SOMEHOW--

--AND THESE UPGRADED BATTLE SUITS OF LUTHOR'S SHOULD DO THE TRICK!

GO! GO AWAY!

THESE ARE BUILT TO WITHSTAND *MORE* THAN THEIR PREDECESSORS!

ONCE I MELT IT ALL TOGETHER WITH HEAT VISION--

--I SHOULD HAVE A NIFTY COCOON TO WRAP THIS GUY IN!

NO! NO!

KRAK

¡UGH!¿

BK

MOO

QUITE A RAP! WHO ARE THESE GUYS, ANYWAY?

AND WHERE DID THEY COME INTO CONTACT WITH ENOUGH RADIATION TO MUTATE THEM THIS WAY?

WAIT, SUPERMAN, BEFORE ACTING AGAINST US YOU MUST HEAR US OUT!

I'M HANK HENSHAW AND WE JUST RETURNED FROM A TOP SECRET DEFENSE MISSION IN SPACE.

ONE OF OUR TASKS WAS TO TEST SOME NEW RADIATION EQUIPMENT THAT REQUIRED ZERO GRAVITY... FOR LEXCORP!

THAT EXPLAINS YOUR PRESENCE HERE, I GUESS.

IN FACT, I WOULDN'T PUT IT PAST LUTHOR TO BE UP TO SOMETHING FISHY.

PERHAPS. THIS RADIATION CERTAINLY ISN'T LIKE ANYTHING I'VE EVER ENCOUNTERED BEFORE.

EVERYTHING WAS FINE, THOUGH, UNTIL THOSE INCREDIBLY INTENSE SOLAR FLARES SCRAMBLED OUR ELECTRONICS!

SOLAR FLARES?!

HENS

I DESTROYED THE ERADICATOR A FEW DAYS AGO BY DROPPING IT IN THE SUN!

DID THAT CAUSE THE SOLAR FLARES? AM I TO BLAME FOR THEIR TRAGEDY?

WHATEVER HELP YOU NEED, YOU'VE GOT, HENSHAW!

WHAT A SURPRISE! WHEN I HEARD THE DOORBELL RING--

--I NEVER EXPECTED YOU TO BE THE GUY PUSHING THE BUTTON!

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME, GOOD LOOKING.

SO, WHAT BRINGS THE ILLUSTRIOUS JOSE DELGADO TO MY NECK OF THE WOODS?

ILLUSTRIOUS? THAT'S A LAUGH!

ACTUALLY, I WAS JUST ON MY WAY OVER TO TELL LOIS I'D BE BUNKING AT THE "Y" FOR A WHILE--

--AND I DECIDED TO STOP IN AND SEE HOW YOU FELT ABOUT THE OTHER NEWS!

NEWS? WHAT NEWS?

I THOUGHT YOU KNEW!

LOOK, YOUR EX-HUSBAND HAS HIRED ME--AS *GANGBUSTER* --TO BE YOUR BODYGUARD DURING THE EDGE TRIAL!

HE'S WORRIED THAT *INTERGANG* MIGHT COME AFTER YOU!

BODYGUARD?! NO OFFENSE, JOSE--

--BUT THE *LAST* THING I NEED IS SOMEONE MAKING LIKE MY SHADOW!

LISTEN, LADY YOU'RE IN DANGER HERE--

--AND SO IS YOUR KID! BESIDES... I'VE ALREADY SPENT THE ADVANCE.

SO JUST AS SOON AS I'M DONE AT LOIS'S--

--GANGBUSTER IS GONNA BE STICKING TO YOU LIKE GLUE!

BLAST IT ALL!

THE RADIATION IS AFFECTING ALL OF US NOW! TERRI'S FADING FROM OUR PLANE OF REALITY-- GARRISON'S IN AGONY--

--AND I AM TOTALLY UNABLE TO HELP THEM!

HENSHAW, YOU'RE EXHAUSTED--YOU'VE GOTTA GET SOME REST!

REST?! LOOK AT ME? IF I SLEEP NOW I MAY NEVER WAKE UP!

WE'RE *DYING*, SUPERMAN--

--AND I CAN'T SAVE US!

HANK--

--MAYBE WE SHOULD TRY S.T.A.R. LABS!

LUTHOR'S NOT HERE TO HELP REVERSE THE PROCESS AND I'M NO SCIENTIST!

NO! ONLY MY BRILLIANCE IS EQUAL TO THIS CHALLENGE!

HE'S IRRATIONAL NOW... CAN'T SAY AS I BLAME HIM--OR ANY OF THEM.

IF ONLY I KNEW MORE ABOUT KRYPTON'S ADVANCED SCIENCES I MIGHT BE ABLE TO CURE THEM...

H-HANK! WHAT'S GOING ON? I'M BECOMING A *PHANTOM!*

SCANNERS REVEAL THE RADIATION IS CAUSING YOU TO *BLEED* INTO ANOTHER DIMENSION!

OH, GOD...

FREE-- I'M *FREE!*

STEVE'S BURNED THROUGH THE COCOON-- AND HE'S HOTTER THAN EVER!

I HAVE ALL THESE POWERS--ALL THIS GREATNESS!

I CAN DO ANYTHING--

--GO ANYWHERE I WANT!

EVEN SPACE!

CAN'T BELIEVE HOW FAST THAT KID IS MOVING! IT'S ALL I CAN DO TO KEEP HIM IN SIGHT--EVEN WITH TELESCOPIC-VISION!

FEELS SO UNBELIEVABLY GOOD--LIKE I REALLY *BELONG* HERE!

IT'S LIKE THE SUN IS CALLING ME--REACHING OUT TO ME--

--TELLING ME TO JOIN IT--

--SO I CAN LIVE FOREVERRRRRR!

HE'S TOTALLY LOST IT! AND HE'S TOO FAR OUT FOR ME TO REACH NOW!

SUCH A SENSELESS TRAGEDY! I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING... NOT ENOUGH *AIR* FOR ME TO FOLLOW...

...NOT ENOUGH *TIME* EVEN IF I COULD HAVE.

I... UH...

THE OTHERS...!

HAVE TO GET BACK TO LEXCORP ...SEE IF I CAN'T AT LEAST SAVE THE OTHERS!

IF HANK HASN'T MADE A BREAKTHROUGH I'LL HAVE TO TRY SOMETHING ELSE... IT'S A LONG SHOT--

--BUT THE JLA OR TITANS MIGHT BE ABLE TO--!

NO! I'M TOO LATE!

HANK?

HANK?!

MMMPH?

NO... SUPERMAN, DEATH... HAS NOT YET CLAIMED... ME.

I AM... HOWEVER... BEYOND ;UHN; SAVING, AS IS... GARRISON.

MY WIFE... THOUGH... I ;UHN;-BEG YOU--

--SAVE HER BY USING--

--USING THE--

--UHFFFFF.

HANK! SAVE HER USING WHAT? WHAT?

HIS SUFFERING IS FINALLY ENDED!

MY DEAR HUSBAND...

TERRI-- I CAN HARDLY SEE YOU!

YES, THE VORTEX OF THE OTHER DIMENSION IS DRAWING ME IN!

MMMPH! NNNGG!

WAIT A MINUTE--YOU KNOW WHAT HANK WAS TRYING TO DO, DON'T YOU?

MMMFF!

THROUGH THAT DOOR, EH?

THEN THAT'S JUST WHERE WE'LL GO! WITH A LITTLE LUCK WE CAN STILL FIND A WAY TO SAVE YOU BOTH!

BUT HANK SAID--

I KNOW WHAT HANK SAID! BUT I'M STILL GOING TO GIVE IT EVERYTHING I'VE GOT!

VECTOR?

THAT VAULT--YOU THINK THAT'S WHAT HANK HAD IN MIND?

AS THICK AS THOSE CONCRETE WALLS ARE, I'D SAY IT'S SOME KIND OF RADIATION CHAMBER!

YOU MEAN HANK WAS PLANNING TO USE RADIATION ON US? HOW CAN THAT HELP?

MAYBE IT'S LIKE USING CHEMOTHERAPY ON A CANCER PATIENT...

IN ANY CASE, HANK PROGRAMMED THIS EQUIPMENT FROM THE COMPUTERS IN THE OTHER ROOM!

WE'VE GOT NOTHING TO LOSE BY TRYING!

NO KIDDING! I'M SO IMMATERIAL NOW--

--THAT I CAN EASILY PASS RIGHT THROUGH THIS WALL!

CAN'T HELP BUT SHAKE THE FEELING THAT THE *ERADICATOR* IS BEHIND ALL THIS...

BESIDES... CURING TERRI AND JIM IS THE PROBLEM AT HAND!

HANG ON IN THERE, KIDDO, WE'RE GOING FOR BROKE!

"AND WHEN WE'RE DONE WITH YOU IT'S GARRISON'S TURN!"

VECTOR

DANGER

Magnetic Resonance Imaging Booth

WARNING: Remove all metal objects from person before entry.

VECTOR

I'M GIVING YOU THE FULL DOSE OF RADIATION, TERRI! HOW YOU FEELING?

TERRI?!

IT HURTS-- INCREDIBLY *PAINFUL!*

BUT IT'S PHYSICAL PAIN...

...IT MUST BE WORKING!

I'M ALIVE!

I'M WHOLE AGAIN!

WE'LL LET A DOCTOR DETERMINE THAT LATER! WE'VE GOT TO FIND GARRISON BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

I COULD'VE SWORN HE WAS RIGHT BEHIND US...

OF ALL OF US, HIS MANIFESTATION APPEARED TO BE THE *MOST* PAINFUL. I PRAY THAT WHEN WE FIND HIM WE'LL BE ABLE TO--

J-JIM?

OH... NO...

WHY?

WHY DID HE DO IT?

HE--HE COMMITTED SUICIDE!

THAT MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGER CAN RIP A WATCH OFF A MAN FROM FIFTY FEET AWAY!

THE RADIATION --THE *PAIN*-- MUST'VE MADE HIM FEEL THAT THIS WAS HIS ONLY OPTION.

THEY'RE GONE--ALL OF THEM!

WH- WHERE DO I GO FROM HERE?

WHEREVER YOU GO... I'LL DO MY BEST TO HELP!

IF I HADN'T CAUSED THIS BY THROWING THE ERADICATOR INTO THE SUN YESTERDAY AFTERNOON--

I DON'T KNOW WHAT ERADICATOR IS--BUT IT COULDN'T HAVE CAUSED OUR MUTATION...

--THE SOLAR EXPLOSION RESPONSIBLE OCCURRED YESTERDAY *MORNING*!

IT'S SMALL CONSOLATION... CONSIDERING...

NO... TEAM EXCALIBUR'S FATE WAS SIMPLY A TRAGIC ACCIDENT... AND *NOTHING* COULD HAVE SAVED US.

NOT EVEN A SUPERMAN, I GUESS.

C'MON, TERRI, YOU'RE IN SHOCK-- LET'S GET YOU TO A HOSPITAL.

THERE-- THAT SHOULD DO IT!

GOOD THING I TURNED OFF THE OVEN EARLIER OR THIS SOUFFLÉ WOULD BE A CINDER BY NOW.

A SLIGHT TOUCH OF HEAT VISION AND *VIOLA!* -- DONE TO A-- EH?

KEYS!

NO NEED FOR THOSE, LOIS. I'M STILL HERE!

GOSH, CLARK, I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU WAITED FOR ME!

SORRY IT TOOK SO LONG, BUT WHEN I TELL YOU ABOUT THE BLOCK-BUSTER HAPPENINGS AT LEXCORP--

WAIT.

I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT LEXCORP, WORK OR ANYTHING ELSE...

...EXCEPT US.

MAYBE YOU WANT THIS RELATIONSHIP TO PROCEED AT ITS OWN PACE, LOIS, BUT I THINK LIFE IS TOO SHORT TO SIT AND WAIT.

SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO PUSH LIFE--TAKE CHANCES. AND IF YOU FAIL--

--AT LEAST YOU CAN SAY YOU TRIED.

CHANCES? LIKE WHAT?

LIKE THIS.

THE DAILY PLANET BUILDING. 8:57 A.M.
BING!
SUPERMAN
OH! CLARK... WHAT--?
Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
"GO, LOVELY ROSE! TELL HER THAT WASTES HER TIME AND ME THAT NOW SHE KNOWS, WHEN I RESEMBLE HER TO THEE, HOW SWEET AND FAIR SHE SEEMS TO BE."
THE DAILY PLANET IS GOOD NEWS
WHO SAYS ROMANCE IS DEAD?
"LOVE & DEATH"
ROGER STERN WRITER • BRETT BREEDING FINISHER/INKER • BILL OAKLEY LETTERER • GLENN WHITMORE COLORIST • JON PETERSON ASSOCIATE • MIKE CARLIN EDITOR
~AND A BIG WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MAN-OF-ACTION: BOB McLEOD • BREAKDOWN PENCILLER~

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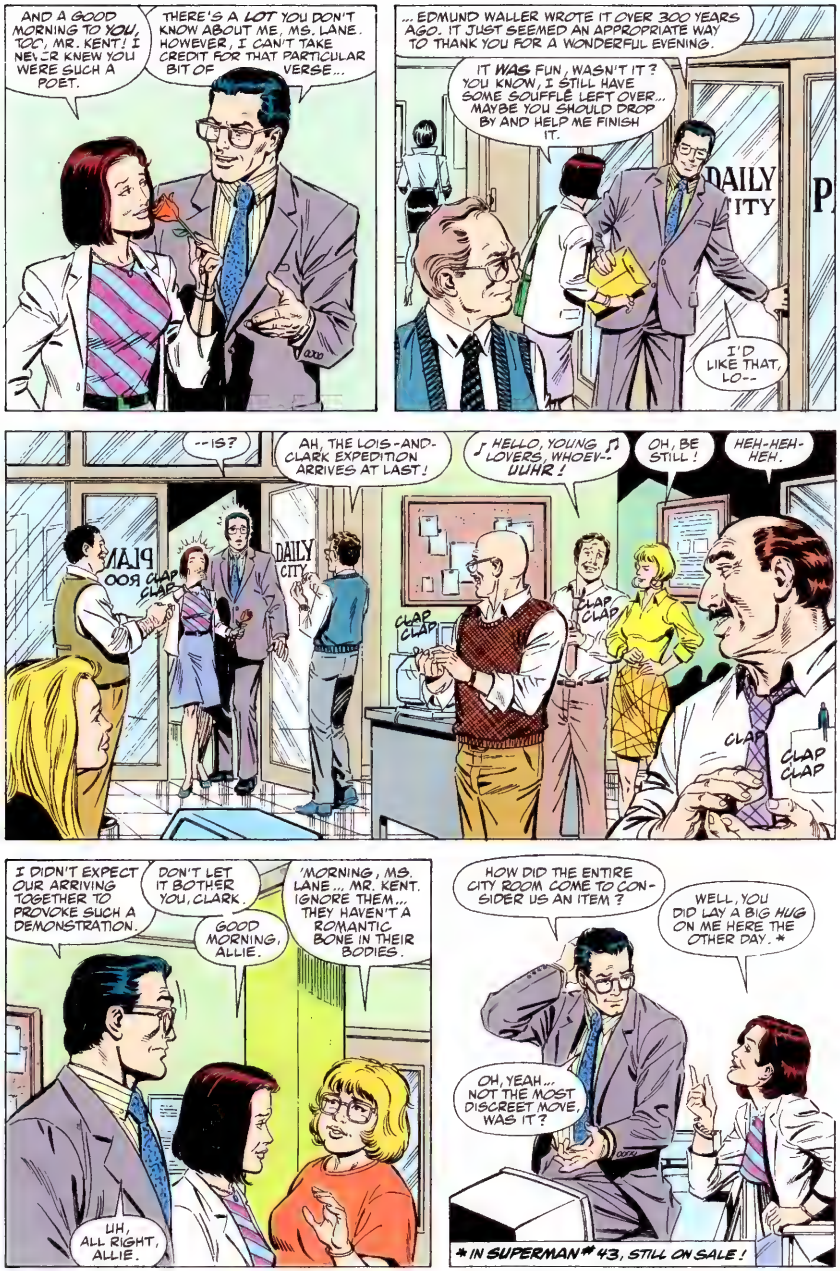
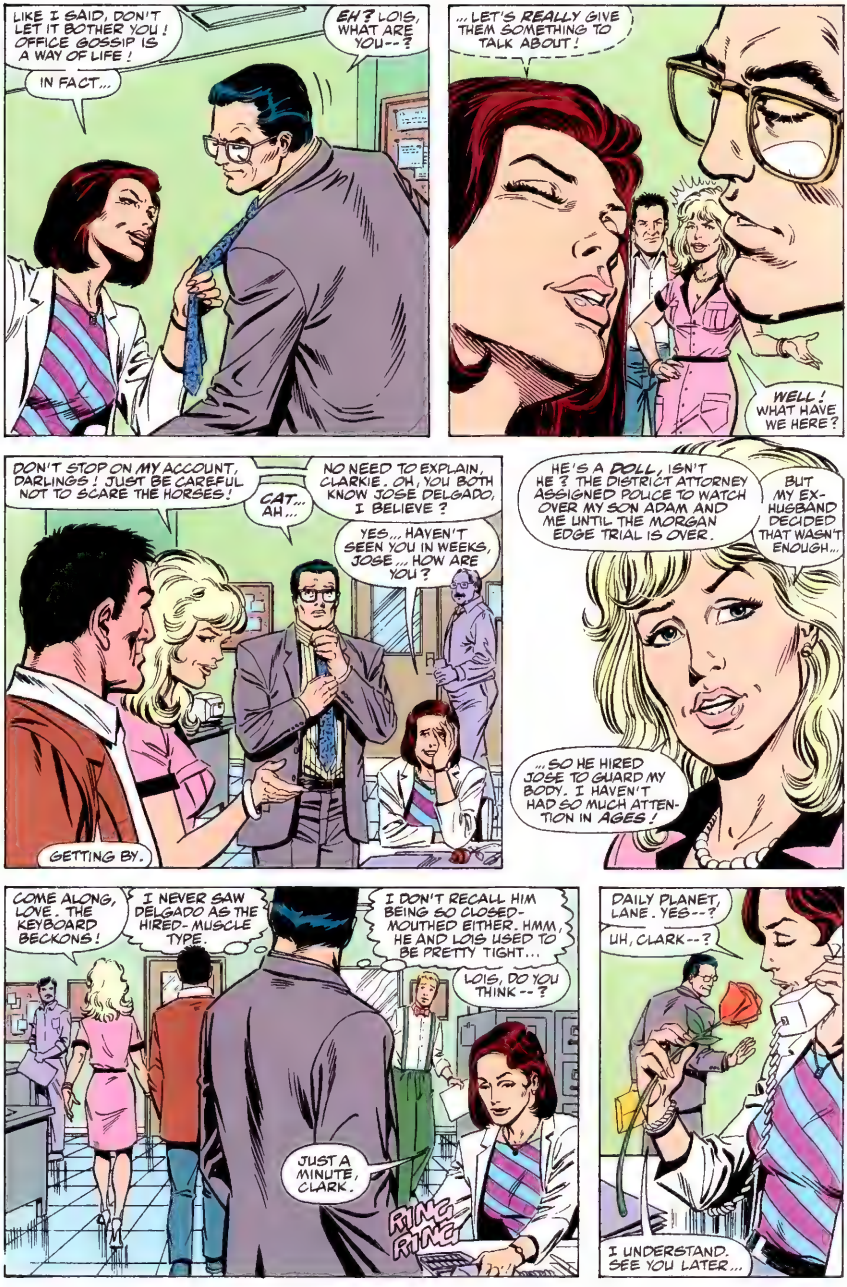
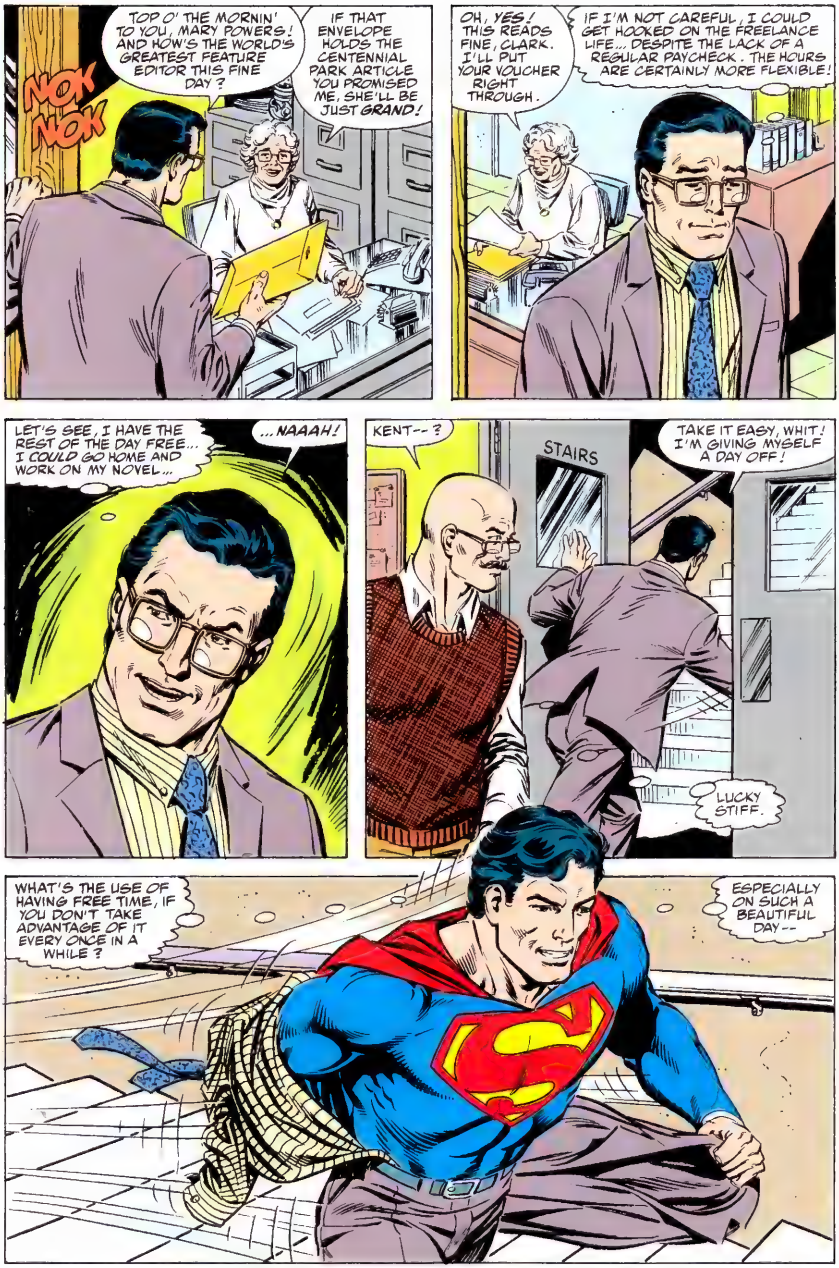

AND A GOOD MORNING TO YOU, TOO, MR. KENT! I NEVER KNEW YOU WERE SUCH A POET.
THERE'S A LOT YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT ME, MS. LANE. HOWEVER, I CAN'T TAKE CREDIT FOR THAT PARTICULAR BIT OF VERSE...
... EDMUND WALLER WROTE IT OVER 300 YEARS AGO. IT JUST SEEMED AN APPROPRIATE WAY TO THANK YOU FOR A WONDERFUL EVENING.
IT WAS FUN, WASN'T IT? YOU KNOW, I STILL HAVE SOME SOUFFLÉ LEFT OVER... MAYBE YOU SHOULD DROP BY AND HELP ME FINISH IT.
I'D LIKE THAT, LO--
--IS?
AH, THE LOIS-AND-CLARK EXPEDITION ARRIVES AT LAST!
♪ HELLO, YOUNG LOVERS, WHOEV-- UUHR!
OH, BE STILL!
HEH-HEH-HEH.
CLAP CLAP
I DIDN'T EXPECT OUR ARRIVING TOGETHER TO PROVOKE SUCH A DEMONSTRATION.
DON'T LET IT BOTHER YOU, CLARK.
GOOD MORNING, ALLIE.
'MORNING, MS. LANE... MR. KENT. IGNORE THEM... THEY HAVEN'T A ROMANTIC BONE IN THEIR BODIES.
UH, ALL RIGHT, ALLIE.
HOW DID THE ENTIRE CITY ROOM COME TO CONSIDER US AN ITEM?
WELL, YOU DID LAY A BIG HUG ON ME HERE THE OTHER DAY. *
OH, YEAH... NOT THE MOST DISCREET MOVE, WAS IT?
* IN SUPERMAN #43, STILL ON SALE!


LIKE I SAID, DON'T LET IT BOTHER YOU! OFFICE GOSSIP IS A WAY OF LIFE!
IN FACT...
EH? LOIS, WHAT ARE YOU--?
...LET'S REALLY GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT!
WELL! WHAT HAVE WE HERE?
DON'T STOP ON MY ACCOUNT, DARLINGS! JUST BE CAREFUL NOT TO SCARE THE HORSES!
CAT... AH...
NO NEED TO EXPLAIN, CLARKIE. OH, YOU BOTH KNOW JOSE DELGADO, I BELIEVE?
YES... HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN WEEKS, JOSE... HOW ARE YOU?
GETTING BY.
HE'S A DOLL, ISN'T HE? THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY ASSIGNED POLICE TO WATCH OVER MY SON ADAM AND ME UNTIL THE MORGAN EDGE TRIAL IS OVER.
BUT MY EX-HUSBAND DECIDED THAT WASN'T ENOUGH...
...SO HE HIRED JOSE TO GUARD MY BODY. I HAVEN'T HAD SO MUCH ATTENTION IN AGES!
COME ALONG, LOVE. THE KEYBOARD BECKONS!
I NEVER SAW DELGADO AS THE HIRED-MUSCLE TYPE.
I DON'T RECALL HIM BEING SO CLOSED-MOUTHED EITHER. HMM, HE AND LOIS USED TO BE PRETTY TIGHT...
LOIS, DO YOU THINK--?
JUST A MINUTE, CLARK.
RING RING
DAILY PLANET, LANE. YES--?
UH, CLARK--?
I UNDERSTAND. SEE YOU LATER...

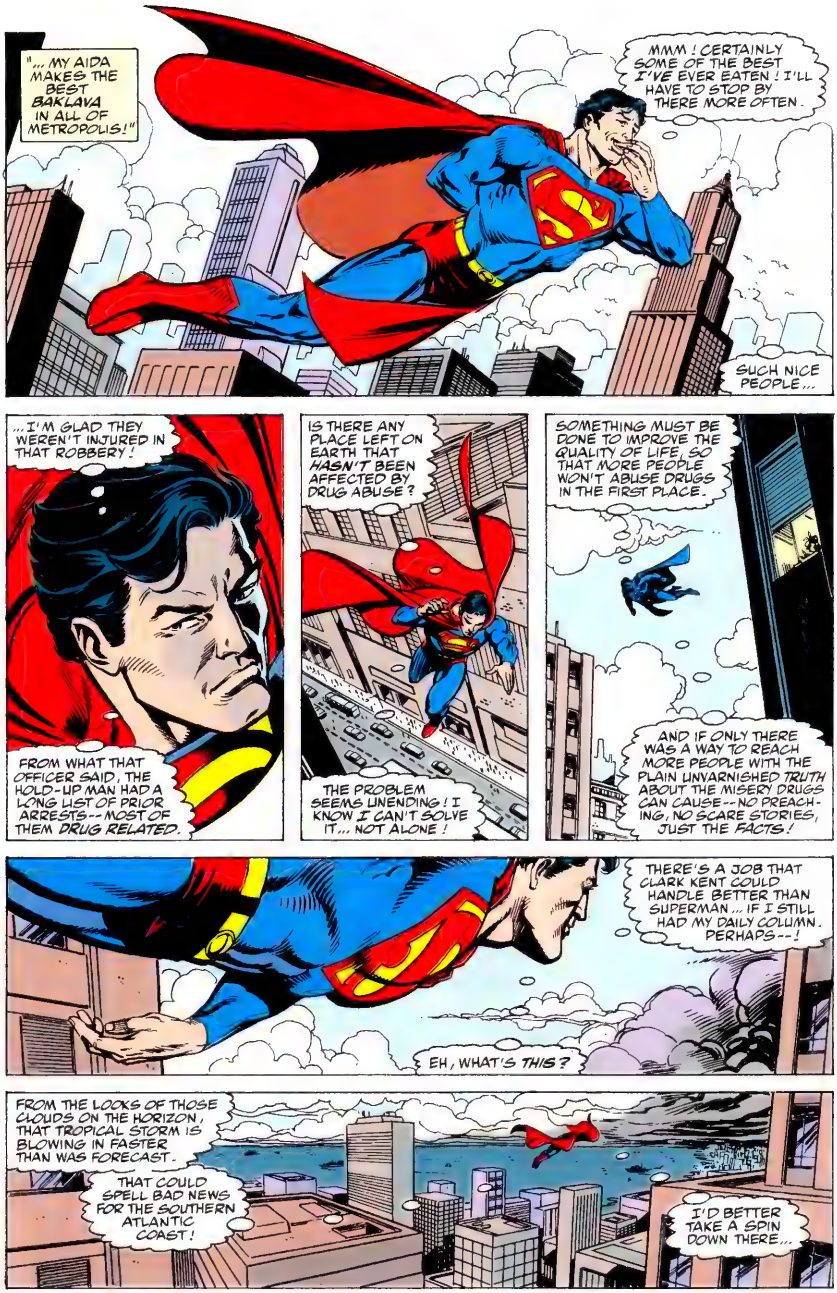

TOP O' THE MORNIN' TO YOU, MARY POWERS! AND HOW'S THE WORLD'S GREATEST FEATURE EDITOR THIS FINE DAY?
IF THAT ENVELOPE HOLDS THE CENTENNIAL PARK ARTICLE YOU PROMISED ME, SHE'LL BE JUST GRAND!
NOK NOK
OH, YES! THIS READS FINE, CLARK. I'LL PUT YOUR VOUCHER RIGHT THROUGH.
IF I'M NOT CAREFUL, I COULD GET HOOKED ON THE FREELANCE LIFE... DESPITE THE LACK OF A REGULAR PAYCHECK. THE HOURS ARE CERTAINLY MORE FLEXIBLE!
LET'S SEE, I HAVE THE REST OF THE DAY FREE... I COULD GO HOME AND WORK ON MY NOVEL...
...NAAAH!
KENT--?
STAIRS
TAKE IT EASY, WHIT! I'M GIVING MYSELF A DAY OFF!
LUCKY STIFF.
WHAT'S THE USE OF HAVING FREE TIME, IF YOU DON'T TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE?
ESPECIALLY ON SUCH A BEAUTIFUL DAY--

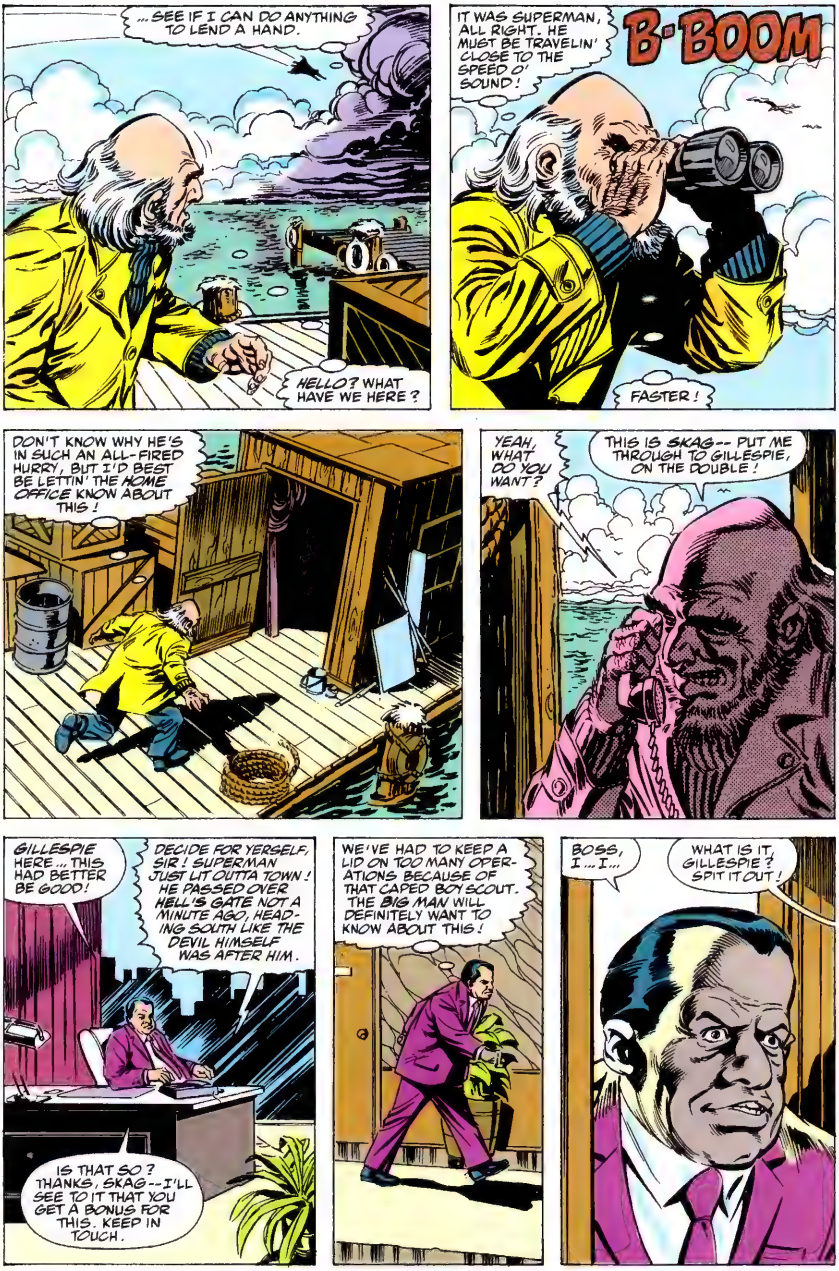
--AS THIS! I CAN'T RECALL THE SKIES EVER LOOKING MORE INVITING!
LIGHT WINDS... LIGHT CLOUD COVER... VISIBILITY ABOUT FIVE MILES...
...PERFECT WEATHER FOR FLYING!
YES, I NEEDED THIS! AFTER ALL THOSE WEEKS I SPENT WITH MY MIND WARPED BY THE ERADICATOR--
* AS SHOWN IN RECENT ISSUES OF OUR THREE SUPER-TITLES.
--IT FEELS GOOD TO BE ALIVE AND ON TOP OF THINGS AGAIN!
DAILY PLANET
ON A DAY LIKE TODAY -- WITH THE SUN SHINING DOWN AND THE WIND AT YOUR FACE -- EVERYTHING SEEMS RIGHT...

"...EVERYTHING IN THE WHOLE WIDE WORLD!"
AWW, NO!
DARN KITE!
DARN TREE!
DARN, DARN, DARN!
EASY, NOW...
...THERE'S NO SENSE IN GETTING MAD AT A KITE OR A TREE! THEY'RE NOT AT FAULT!
S-SUPERMAN!
THERE YOU GO... IT'S NOT EVEN TORN. JUST STAY AWAY FROM THE TREES AND YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE ANY MORE PROBLEMS.
TH-THANKS. I'LL KEEP TRYING--
--BUT IT'S NOT EASY. NOT MUCH BREEZE CLOSE TO THE GROUND, AND MY BROTHERS WON'T HELP ME.
AH, I SEE!
THAT HARDLY SEEMS FAIR. HOW ABOUT IF I...
"...GIVE YOUR KITE A FLYING START?"
THE WINDS ARE SMOOTH AND EVEN UP HERE. READY TO RUN?
OH, YES, SUPERMAN! THANK YOU!

IT'S NOT EVERY DAY I GET TO HELP LAUNCH A KITE.
I WISH I COULD DO THAT MORE OFTEN, AND DIDN'T HAVE TO DEVOTE SO MUCH TIME TO MORE--
BLAM BLAM
--SERIOUS MATTERS.
NOBODY'S FOLLOWIN'... GOOD!
I HOPED THOSE SHOTS'D SCARE 'EM OFF.
IN A HURRY?
HUNNNGH?!
WH-WHERE'D YOU COME FROM?!
I COULD ASK THE SAME THING OF YOU.
YOU OBVIOUSLY HAVEN'T LIVED VERY LONG IN METROPOLIS-- OR ELSE YOU'D KNOW BETTER THAN TO TRY THAT!
UH...
BLAM BLAM BLAM

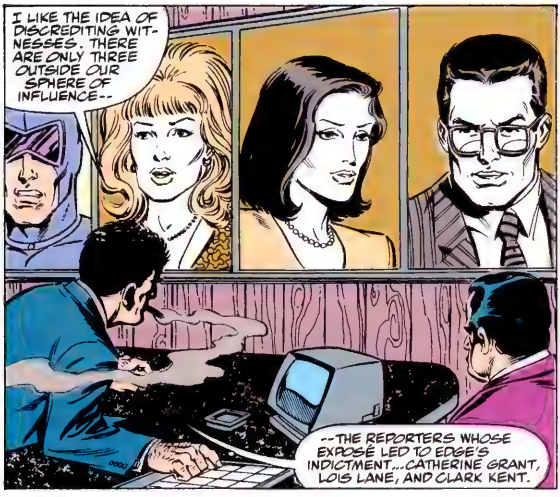
I DON'T CARE FOR GUNS... AND I CARE LESS FOR THOSE WHO USE THEM AGAINST OTHER PEOPLE. NOW I WANT SOME ANSWERS FROM YOU!
GOOD! LET'S START WITH--
YEAH... SURE... ANYTHING!
RRUNK
"--WHERE YOU GOT THAT MONEY!"
... FIRED A COUPLE OF SHOTS THEN TOOK OFF DOWN THE STREET.
A HOLD-UP?!
GROCERY STORE
JUST NOT SAFE ANYMORE!
WAS ANYONE HURT?
HE WAS A MANIAC, I TELL YOU! HE HAD OUR MONEY ALREADY-- WHY DID HE HAVE TO SHOOT OUR DOOR? GLASS PRICES ARE SO HIGH! HE COULD HAVE SHOT SOMEONE!
I TOLD BASHIR TO STAY DOWN, BUT WOULD HE LISTEN? OH, NO... HE'S DETERMINED TO MAKE ME A WIDOW!
PARDON ME, BUT I BELIEVE THIS MAN HAS SOMETHING OF YOURS!
HE NEARLY SHOT ME!
SNACK 'N' PACK
THAT'S HIM! THAT'S OUR MONEY!
BE CAREFUL! HE HAS A GUN!
NO, NOT ANYMORE.
OKAY, YOU ARE UNDER ARREST. YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT...
SHORTLY...
SUPERMAN, WAIT! YOU MUST LET US REPAY YOU!
THANK YOU, BUT THAT'S REALLY NOT NECESSARY.
PLEASE, SOMETHING TO EAT AT LEAST...

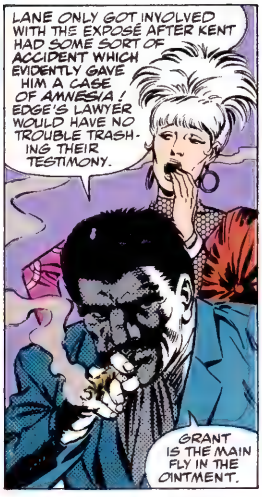

"... MY AIDA MAKES THE BEST BAKLAVA IN ALL OF METROPOLIS!"
MMM! CERTAINLY SOME OF THE BEST I'VE EVER EATEN! I'LL HAVE TO STOP BY THERE MORE OFTEN.
SUCH NICE PEOPLE...
...I'M GLAD THEY WEREN'T INJURED IN THAT ROBBERY!
FROM WHAT THAT OFFICER SAID, THE HOLD-UP MAN HAD A LONG LIST OF PRIOR ARRESTS--MOST OF THEM DRUG RELATED.
IS THERE ANY PLACE LEFT ON EARTH THAT HASN'T BEEN AFFECTED BY DRUG ABUSE?
THE PROBLEM SEEMS UNENDING! I KNOW I CAN'T SOLVE IT... NOT ALONE!
SOMETHING MUST BE DONE TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE, SO THAT MORE PEOPLE WON'T ABUSE DRUGS IN THE FIRST PLACE.
AND IF ONLY THERE WAS A WAY TO REACH MORE PEOPLE WITH THE PLAIN UNVARNISHED TRUTH ABOUT THE MISERY DRUGS CAN CAUSE--NO PREACHING, NO SCARE STORIES, JUST THE FACTS!
THERE'S A JOB THAT CLARK KENT COULD HANDLE BETTER THAN SUPERMAN... IF I STILL HAD MY DAILY COLUMN. PERHAPS--!
EH, WHAT'S THIS?
FROM THE LOOKS OF THOSE CLOUDS ON THE HORIZON, THAT TROPICAL STORM IS BLOWING IN FASTER THAN WAS FORECAST.
THAT COULD SPELL BAD NEWS FOR THE SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST!
I'D BETTER TAKE A SPIN DOWN THERE...

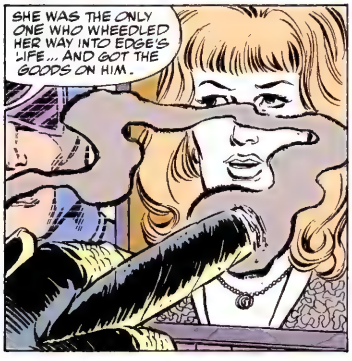

... SEE IF I CAN DO ANYTHING TO LEND A HAND.
HELLO? WHAT HAVE WE HERE?
IT WAS SUPERMAN, ALL RIGHT. HE MUST BE TRAVELIN' CLOSE TO THE SPEED O' SOUND!
B-BOOM
FASTER!
DON'T KNOW WHY HE'S IN SUCH AN ALL-FIRED HURRY, BUT I'D BEST BE LETTIN' THE HOME OFFICE KNOW ABOUT THIS!
YEAH, WHAT DO YOU WANT?
THIS IS SKAG-- PUT ME THROUGH TO GILLESPIE, ON THE DOUBLE!
GILLESPIE HERE... THIS HAD BETTER BE GOOD!
DECIDE FOR YERSELF, SIR! SUPERMAN JUST LIT OUTTA TOWN! HE PASSED OVER HELL'S GATE NOT A MINUTE AGO, HEADING SOUTH LIKE THE DEVIL HIMSELF WAS AFTER HIM.
IS THAT SO? THANKS, SKAG--I'LL SEE TO IT THAT YOU GET A BONUS FOR THIS. KEEP IN TOUCH.
WE'VE HAD TO KEEP A LID ON TOO MANY OPERATIONS BECAUSE OF THAT CAPED BOY SCOUT. THE BIG MAN WILL DEFINITELY WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THIS!
BOSS, I... I...
WHAT IS IT, GILLESPIE? SPIT IT OUT!

SORRY, MANNHEIM. I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE BUSY.
SKIP IT. THIS'S LEILANI, MY NEW EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT.
HA-LO.
ANYTHING YOU CARE TO SAY TO ME, YOU CAN SAY IN FRONT OF HER. AND SINCE YOU BARGED IN HERE WITHOUT KNOCKING, I ASSUME YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY?
YES, SIR! YOU WANTED TO BE KEPT ABREAST OF SUPERMAN'S MOVEMENTS--?
WELL, HE WAS JUST SEEN FLYING OUT TO SEA AT A GREAT RATE OF SPEED.
WHAT?! IS THIS INFORMATION RELIABLE?
THE REPORT CAME STRAIGHT FROM MY BEST MAN ON THE WATERFRONT.
NEEP
GOOD! NOW I CAN CONVENE A COUNCIL OF WAR WITHOUT FEAR OF THAT SUPER-SNOOP CATCHING WIND OF IT!
MANNY-HEIM, WHAT--?
LATER, BABE. I GOT SOME BUSINESS TO HANDLE.
WHRRRR

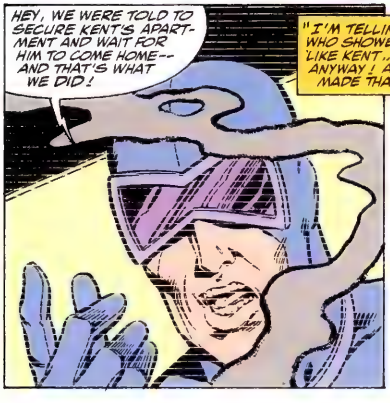
GOOD MORNING, GENTLEMEN. AS CURRENT HEAD OF INTERGANG, I'VE CALLED THIS TELECONFERENCE TO DISCUSS THE OPTIONS PRESENTED TO OUR ORGANIZATION BY THE MORGAN EDGE TRIAL.
AS MOST OF YOU ALREADY KNOW, EDGE RAN INTERGANG FOR SEVERAL YEARS, USING HIS POSITION AS PRESIDENT OF GALAXY COMMUNICATIONS TO LAUNDER REVENUES AND DIVERSIFY INTO LEGITIMATE BUSINESS.
HE WAS ALSO ACTING AS CONDUIT TO A SILENT PARTNER WHO SUPPLIED US WITH SPECIAL ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES.
EVER SINCE EDGE'S ACTIVITIES BECAME PUBLIC AND HE WAS INDICTED ON RACKETEERING CHARGES, WE'VE BEEN IN A CRISIS CONTROL SITUATION. WE CAN'T ALLOW THAT TO CONTINUE.
I'M INTERESTED IN HEARING ANY SUGGESTIONS YOU DIVISION BOSSES MIGHT HAVE IN THE MATTER.
WELL OBVIOUSLY, WE NEED TO
THE MOST IMPORTANT THING NOW IS
WE HAVE TO ELIMINATE ANY THREAT--!
ONE AT A TIME! ONE AT A TIME!!
BUNCHA EAGER BEAVERS... I'M HIS SECOND-IN-COMMAND ... WHY'S HE ASKING THEIR OPINIONS AND NOT MINE! WHY DON'T I RATE AN EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT?
I DON'T THINK ANY OF US WANT TO SEE EDGE CONVICTED. I SAY WE SEND IN AN ELITE UNIT, BUST UP THE TRIAL, KILL THE JUDGE AND JURY--
--AND RELOCATE EDGE TO A PACIFIC SAFE HOUSE.
NO... HITTING THE COURTHOUSE WOULD BRING TOO MUCH HEAT DOWN ON US. SUPERMAN'S OUT OF TOWN AT THIS MINUTE, BUT HE WON'T BE FOREVER.
I AGREE. SUBTLETY IS WHAT'S NEEDED HERE!
WE NEED TO ELIMINATE EVIDENCE, DISCREDIT WITNESSES.
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL? EDGE GOT HIMSELF INTO THIS MESS! WHY DON'T WE JUST ELIMINATE HIM?
THAT HAS BEEN CONSIDERED. BUT EDGE MAY YET BE VALUABLE TO US.
WE'LL EMPLOY THE KILL OPTION ONLY IF HE TRIES SELLING US OUT TO SAVE HIS SKIN!

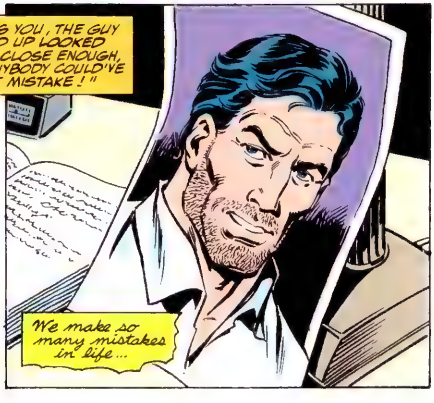

I LIKE THE IDEA OF DISCREDITING WITNESSES. THERE ARE ONLY THREE OUTSIDE OUR SPHERE OF INFLUENCE--
--THE REPORTERS WHOSE EXPOSÉ LED TO EDGE'S INDICTMENT...CATHERINE GRANT, LOIS LANE, AND CLARK KENT.


LANE ONLY GOT INVOLVED WITH THE EXPOSÉ AFTER KENT HAD SOME SORT OF ACCIDENT WHICH EVIDENTLY GAVE HIM A CASE OF AMNESIA! EDGE'S LAWYER WOULD HAVE NO TROUBLE TRASHING THEIR TESTIMONY.
GRANT IS THE MAIN FLY IN THE OINTMENT.

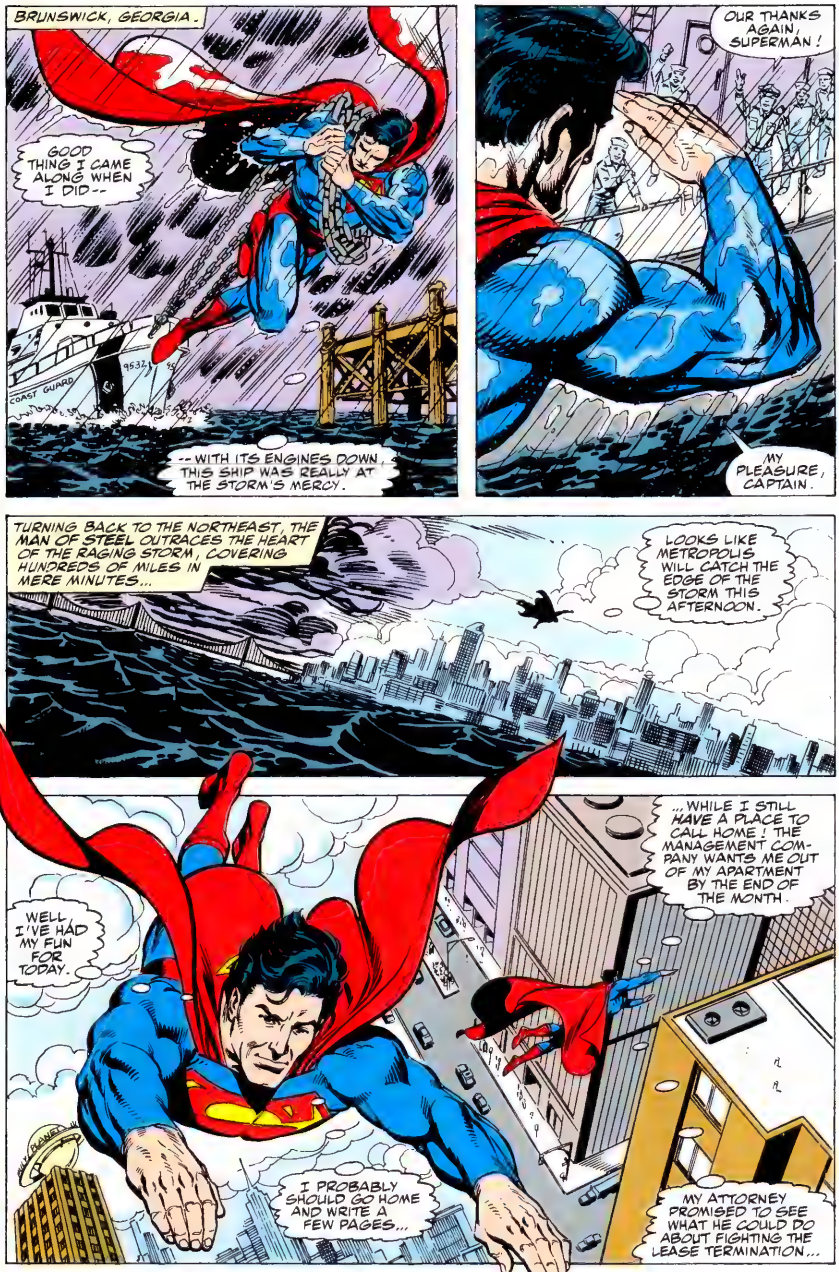

SHE WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO WHEEDLED HER WAY INTO EDGE'S LIFE... AND GOT THE GOODS ON HIM.

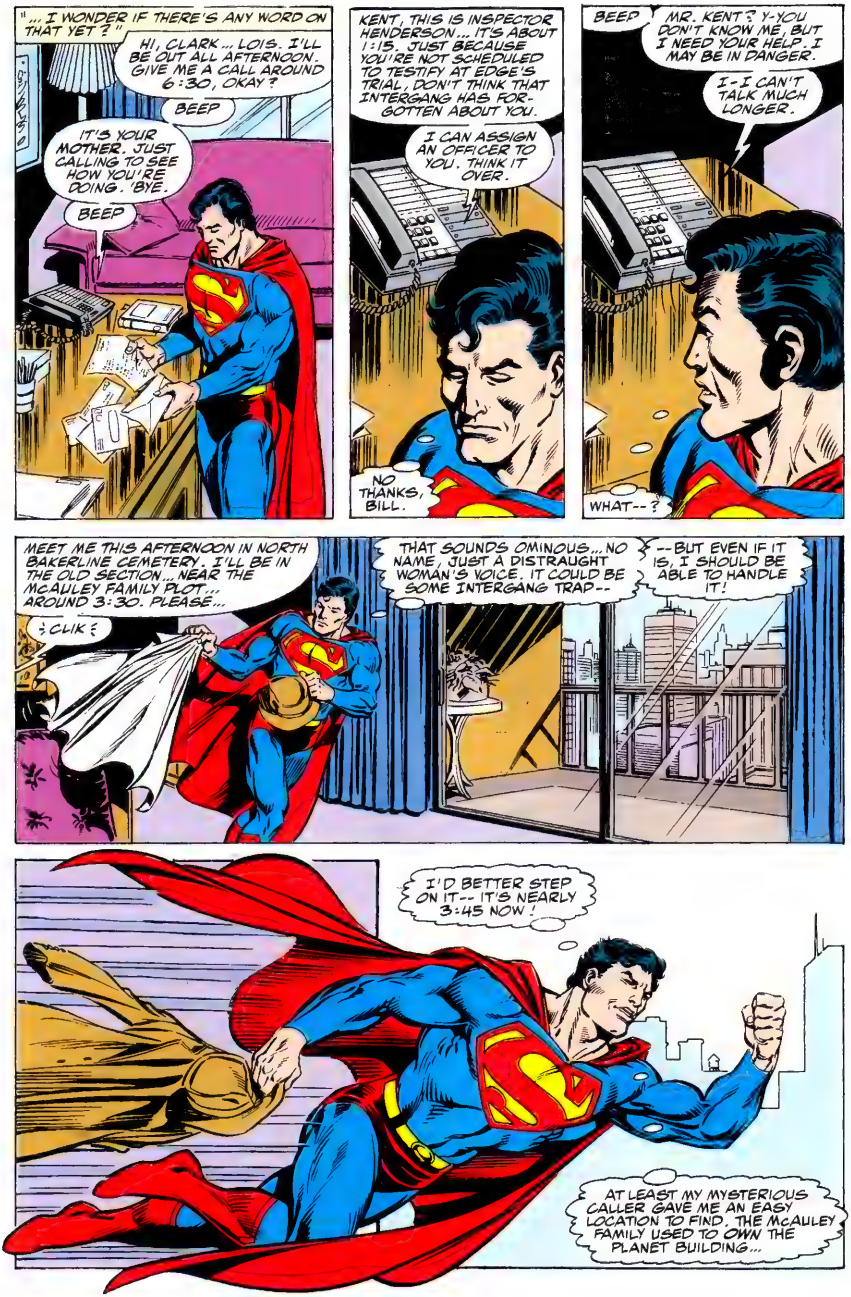
I WANT HER TAKEN ALIVE! AND I WANT IT DONE RIGHT--
--NOT LIKE THE ATTEMPTED HIT ON KENT THAT YOU WALL-CRAWLERS BOTCHED!

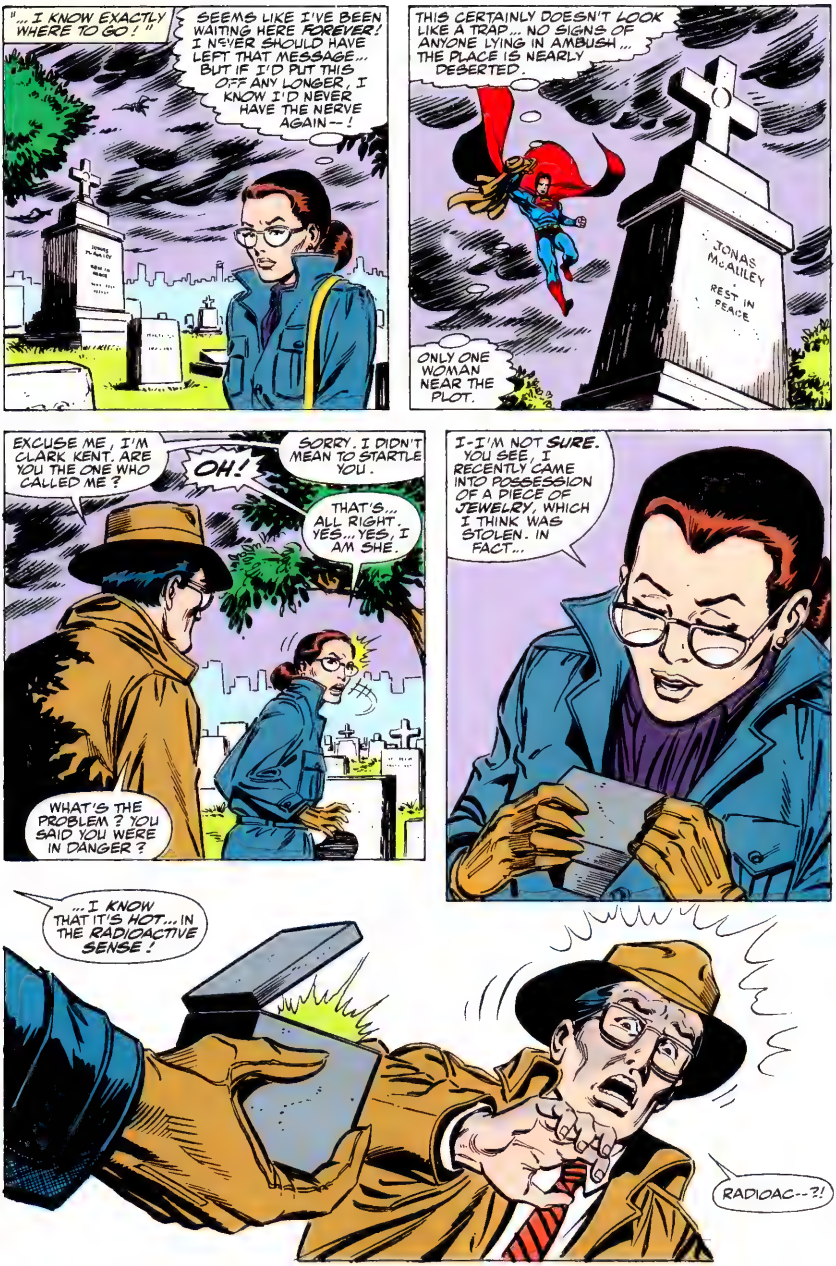

HEY, WE WERE TOLD TO SECURE KENT'S APARTMENT AND WAIT FOR HIM TO COME HOME--AND THAT'S WHAT WE DID!


"I'M TELLING YOU, THE GUY WHO SHOWED UP LOOKED LIKE KENT... CLOSE ENOUGH, ANYWAY! ANYBODY COULD'VE MADE THAT MISTAKE!"
We make so many mistakes in life...

...my biggest one was going to work for LexCorp's computer division. It was a promising career, until I was noticed by Lex Luthor himself. He told me that he liked my work.
At first, I was honored when he put me in charge of his pet project --
--compiling and analyzing data on those most associated with Superman. Eventually, my work uncovered an astounding secret...
CLARK KENT IS SUPERMAN
...Superman leads a double life!
But Luthor could not believe that a man of such power would willingly hide behind a facade of normality.
YOU HAVE FAILED ME, AMANDA! THIS CONCLUSION IS UTTERLY USELESS. REMOVE IT FROM MY COMPUTERS AT ONCE!
AND THEN REMOVE YOURSELF!
In time, I actually began to doubt my own findings. I knew I had to prove the secret of Superman's identity to myself.
I hired Matt Stockton to help me. As a detective, he was somewhat disreputable, but he was all I could afford. He did his best to help me...
That monster used me, and then threw me away! His influence is so pervasive that I found myself blacklisted, unable to find work.
...and was killed for his efforts.
I'M SORRY, MATT... SO SORRY.
I'VE FINALLY FOUND A MEANS OF PROVING KENT'S SECRET... I BROKE THE LAW TO ACQUIRE IT, BUT THAT DOESN'T SEEM TO MATTER ANYMORE.
THIS IS FOR BOTH OF US NOW. YOUR DEATH MUST NOT HAVE BEEN IN VAIN!


BRUNSWICK, GEORGIA.
GOOD THING I CAME ALONG WHEN I DID--
COAST GUARD
--WITH ITS ENGINES DOWN, THIS SHIP WAS REALLY AT THE STORM'S MERCY.
OUR THANKS AGAIN, SUPERMAN!
MY PLEASURE, CAPTAIN.
TURNING BACK TO THE NORTHEAST, THE MAN OF STEEL OUTRACES THE HEART OF THE RAGING STORM, COVERING HUNDREDS OF MILES IN MERE MINUTES...
LOOKS LIKE METROPOLIS WILL CATCH THE EDGE OF THE STORM THIS AFTERNOON.
WELL I'VE HAD MY FUN FOR TODAY.
I PROBABLY SHOULD GO HOME AND WRITE A FEW PAGES...
...WHILE I STILL HAVE A PLACE TO CALL HOME! THE MANAGEMENT COMPANY WANTS ME OUT OF MY APARTMENT BY THE END OF THE MONTH.
MY ATTORNEY PROMISED TO SEE WHAT HE COULD DO ABOUT FIGHTING THE LEASE TERMINATION...


"... I WONDER IF THERE'S ANY WORD ON THAT YET?"
HI, CLARK... LOIS. I'LL BE OUT ALL AFTERNOON. GIVE ME A CALL AROUND 6:30, OKAY?
BEEP
IT'S YOUR MOTHER. JUST CALLING TO SEE HOW YOU'RE DOING. 'BYE.
BEEP
KENT, THIS IS INSPECTOR HENDERSON... IT'S ABOUT 1:15. JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT SCHEDULED TO TESTIFY AT EDGE'S TRIAL, DON'T THINK THAT INTERGANG HAS FORGOTTEN ABOUT YOU.
I CAN ASSIGN AN OFFICER TO YOU. THINK IT OVER.
NO THANKS, BILL.
BEEP
MR. KENT? Y-YOU DON'T KNOW ME, BUT I NEED YOUR HELP. I MAY BE IN DANGER.
I-I CAN'T TALK MUCH LONGER.
WHAT--?
MEET ME THIS AFTERNOON IN NORTH BAKERLINE CEMETERY. I'LL BE IN THE OLD SECTION, NEAR THE McAULEY FAMILY PLOT... AROUND 3:30. PLEASE...
CLIK
THAT SOUNDS OMINOUS... NO NAME, JUST A DISTRAUGHT WOMAN'S VOICE. IT COULD BE SOME INTERGANG TRAP--
--BUT EVEN IF IT IS, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO HANDLE IT!
I'D BETTER STEP ON IT-- IT'S NEARLY 3:45 NOW!
AT LEAST MY MYSTERIOUS CALLER GAVE ME AN EASY LOCATION TO FIND. THE McAULEY FAMILY USED TO OWN THE PLANET BUILDING...


"... I KNOW EXACTLY WHERE TO GO!"
SEEMS LIKE I'VE BEEN WAITING HERE FOREVER! I NEVER SHOULD HAVE LEFT THAT MESSAGE... BUT IF I'D PUT THIS OFF ANY LONGER, I KNOW I'D NEVER HAVE THE NERVE AGAIN--!
THIS CERTAINLY DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A TRAP... NO SIGNS OF ANYONE LYING IN AMBUSH... THE PLACE IS NEARLY DESERTED.
JONAS McAULEY
REST IN PEACE
ONLY ONE WOMAN NEAR THE PLOT.
EXCUSE ME, I'M CLARK KENT. ARE YOU THE ONE WHO CALLED ME?
OH!
SORRY. I DIDN'T MEAN TO STARTLE YOU.
THAT'S... ALL RIGHT. YES... YES, I AM SHE.
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM? YOU SAID YOU WERE IN DANGER?
I-I'M NOT SURE. YOU SEE, I RECENTLY CAME INTO POSSESSION OF A PIECE OF JEWELRY, WHICH I THINK WAS STOLEN. IN FACT...
...I KNOW THAT IT'S HOT... IN THE RADIOACTIVE SENSE!
RADIOAC--?!

AS YOU CAN SEE, IT'S A RING... RATHER LARGE FOR ME... IT WAS OBVIOUSLY MADE FOR A MAN'S FINGER.
THE STONE IS AN UNUSUALLY STABLE SUPERACTINIDE UNLIKE ANY ELEMENT FOUND ON EARTH. IN LIMITED EXPOSURE, ITS RADIATION IS RELATIVELY HARMLESS...
...TO MOST PEOPLE. THERE'S ONLY ONE MAN IN THE WORLD WHO WOULD HAVE AN IMMEDIATE REACTION TO IT. ISN'T THAT RIGHT--
JONAS McAULEY REST IN PEACE
--SUPERMAN?!
LET ME HEAR YOU SAY IT! ADMIT THAT YOU'RE SUPERMAN!
Y-YES... I'M... SUPERMAN.
AT LAST... AT LAST...
THAT'S... THE KRYPTONITE RING... LEX LUTHOR HAD MADE.
CAN'T IMAGINE... HIM NOT WANTING TO BE AROUND... FOR THIS.
DIDN'T SEE HIM... BUT HE MUST BE... CLOSE BY.
WHERE IS HE? WHERE'S LUTHOR?

DON'T MENTION THAT MONSTER'S NAME IN MY PRESENCE AGAIN! YES, THIS IS HIS PRECIOUS RING... BUT HE DOESN'T EVEN SUSPECT THAT I HAVE IT!
I TOOK IT TO PROVE WHAT I KNEW WAS RIGHT... THAT YOU ARE SUPERMAN!
¡UHHN?! H-HOW DID YOU--? NO... DOESN'T MATTER.
IF YOU HATE LUTHOR THAT MUCH...
...IF YOU WERE ABLE TO GET YOUR HANDS ON HIS RING...
...YOU COULD HELP PUT HIM BEHIND BARS... WHERE HE BELONGS.
I CAN HELP YOU... J-JUST...
JONAS McAULEY
REST IN PEACE
...PUT... RING... AWAY!
KENT, WHAT'RE YOU--?
KENT!
JONAS McAULEY
REST IN PEACE
OMIGOD, I'VE KILLED HIM!
HARRY KAPLEN

UHH?
HOW LONG HAVE I BEEN OUT? THAT GROUNDSKEEPER... DID HE SEE--?
SAY THERE--ARE YOU OKAY, MISTER? YOU DON'T LOOK SO HOT.
IT'S ALL RIGHT. I JUST... SLIPPED ON THE WET GRASS. I'LL BE FINE.
WILL I? FOR HOW LONG?
SHE'S OUT THERE SOMEWHERE IN A CITY OF 11 MILLION PEOPLE--
--SHE HAS A PIECE OF KRYPTONITE AND SHE KNOWS MY SECRET...
"...AND I DON'T EVEN KNOW HER NAME!"
'EY, LADY!
RENE'S BAR-B-GRILL
HE'LL BE OKAY ...HE'LL RECOVER... HE MUST! HE CAN'T BE DEAD...

...I CAN'T HAVE ANOTHER DEATH ON MY CONSCIENCE!
I NEVER WANTED TO HURT HIM... I JUST WANTED TO PROVE HE WAS SUPERMAN.
I DIDN'T KNOW IT WOULD WORK SO QUICKLY ... I WISH I'D NEVER SEEN THIS RING!
THE RING! OH, NO! I-I LEFT THE LEAD CASE BACK IN THE CEMETERY!
WHAT WAS I THINKING?!?
I'M SURE THIS WAS WHAT COST LUTHOR HIS HAND!
HEY, BABE... YOU LOST?
CARLYN
CANDY'S
TAXI
AND I... I'VE BEEN WALKING AROUND WITH IT IN MY HANDS!
HEY! I'M TALKIN' TO YOU!
YOU IGNORIN' ME?
WHAT--? OHH!!
THAT AIN'T SMART, GIRL. HE HATES IT WHEN HE'S IGNORED!
NO! LET ME GO! IT'S NOT SAFE HERE!
YOU GOT THAT RIGHT!
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! WE'VE GOT TO... GET AWAY! GET AWAAIIEEEE

NEXT MONTH ACROSS THE 3 SUPER-BOOKS:

DARK KNIGHT OVER METROPOLIS

TELL YOUR FRIENDS!

QUEST FOR VENGEANCE

CHAPTER ONE

SUPERMAN

Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

STORY: DAN JURGENS
CHAPTER ONE ART: BOB McLEOD
CHAPTER TWO ART: CURT SWAN AND JOHN BYRNE
CHAPTER THREE ART: KERRY GAMMILL AND DICK GIORDANO
LETTERER: BILL OAKLEY ✱ COLORIST: GLENN WHITMORE
ASSOCIATE EDITOR: JONATHAN PETERSON
EDITOR: MIKE CARLIN

WHOEVER BUILT THIS FLYING JUNK HEAP SHOULD BE SHOT!
THANKS TO THESE FAULTY VERTICAL LIFT CONTROLS--
--OUR ANGLE OF DESCENT IS SO SHARP THAT THE FRICTION OF EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE IS RENDERING OUR HEAT SHIELD USELESS!
IF YOU DON'T GET THE CONTROLS FUSED BACK INTO PLACE, WE'LL MELT!
YOU'LL MELT, VRIL. I CAN SURVIVE ANYTHING.
BESIDES, I'LL HAVE EVERYTHING REALIGNED IN A MINUTE OR TWO.

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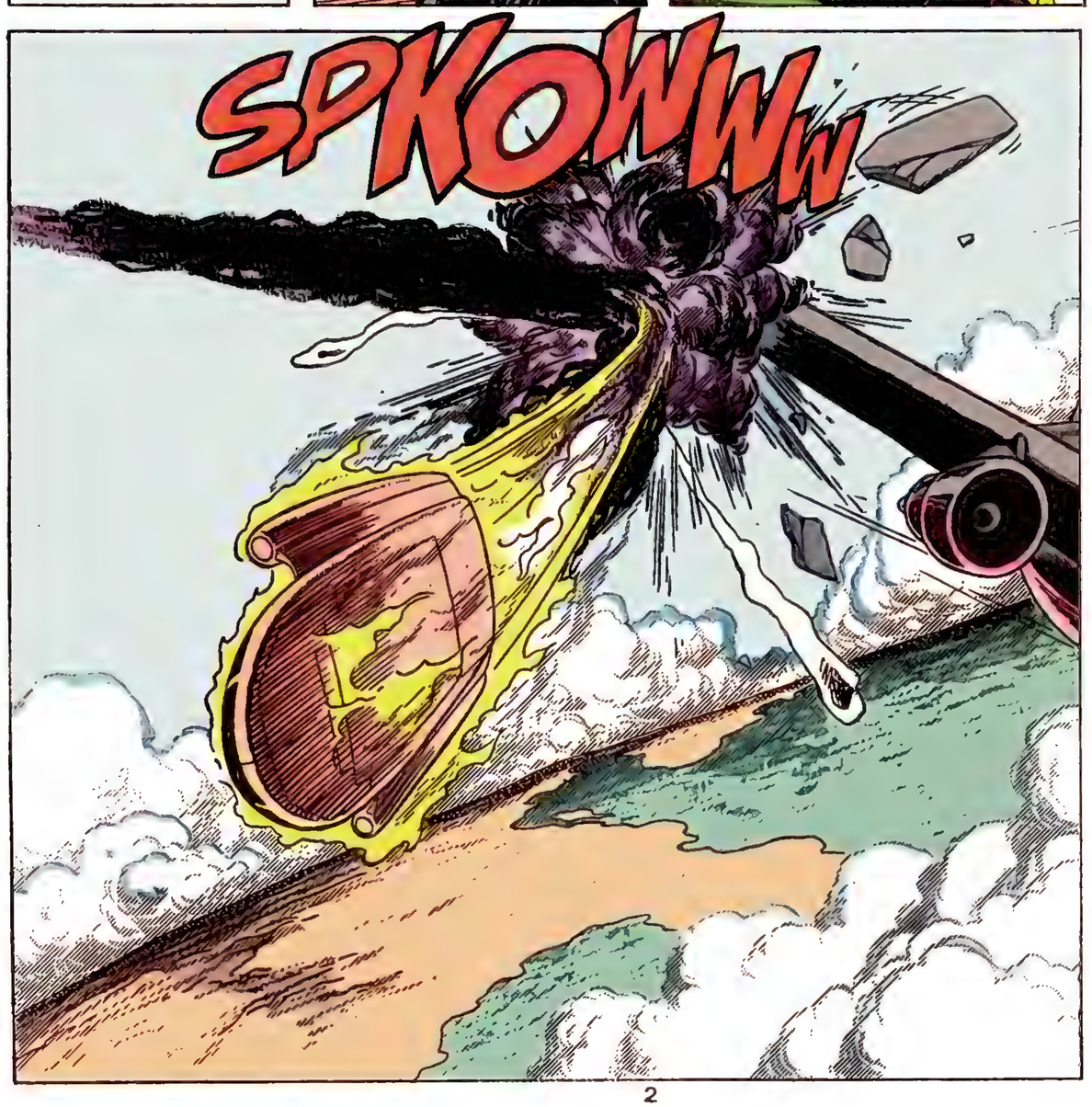
G-5570

WE DON'T HAVE THAT MUCH TIME, LAR GAND! FORGET FUSING IT ONE CIRCUIT AT A TIME--

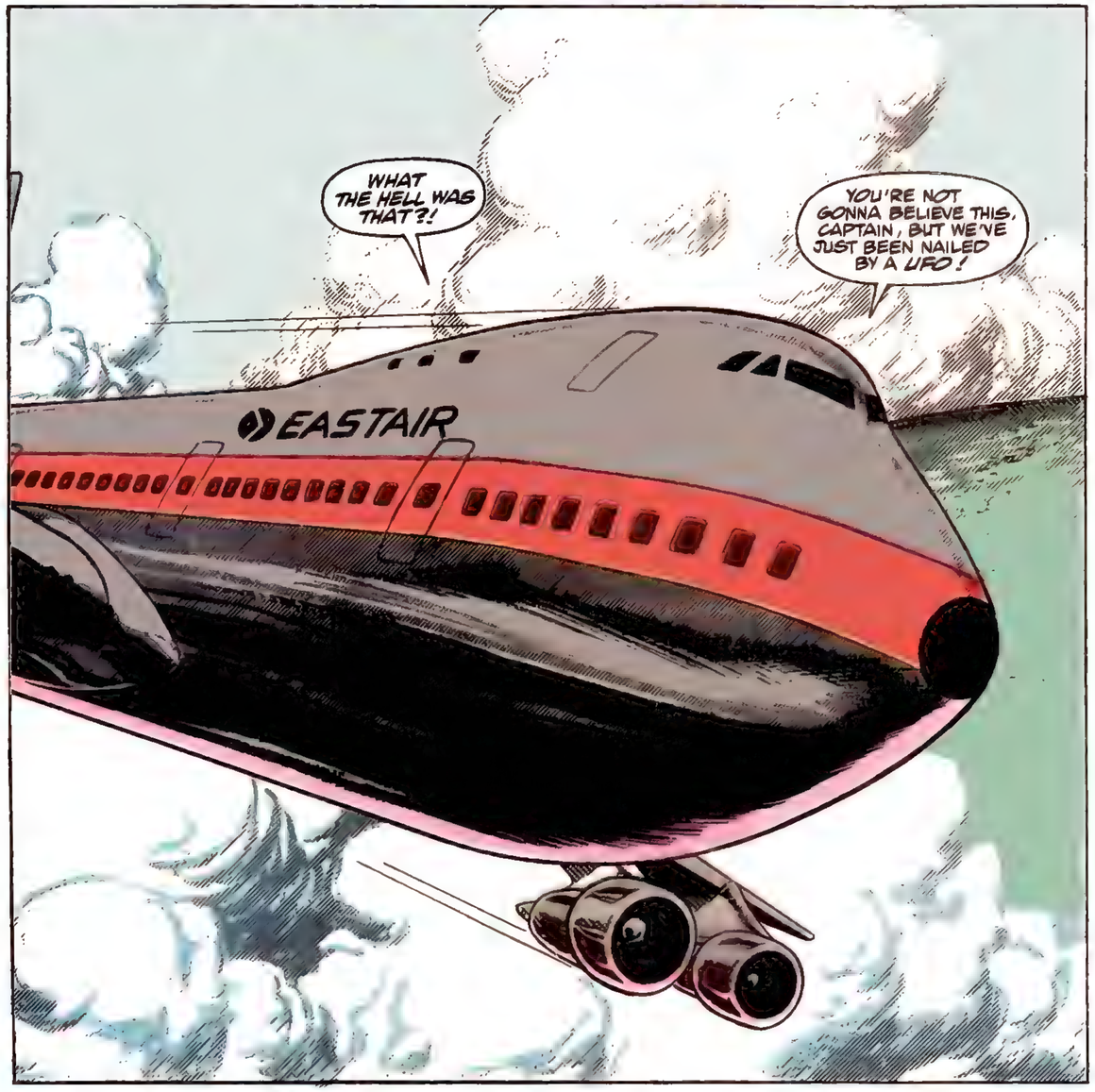
--AND USE YOUR HEAT VISION TO FUSE THE WHOLE BOARD TOGETHER! WITH A LITTLE LUCK, WE'LL REGAIN A MODICUM OF CONTROL!
YOU'RE THE BOSS.

IT'S WORKING! THE LIFT CONTROLS ARE RESPONDING EVER SO SLIGHTLY--

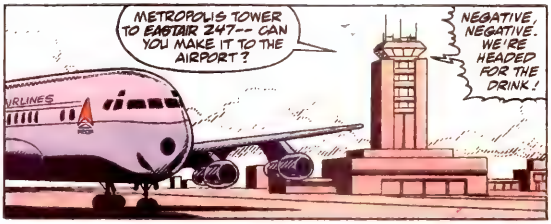

SPKOWWW

LOOK, I HATE SITTING AND DOING NOTHING! I'LL JUST FLY OUT AND USE MY POWERS TO LAND THE SHIP!
ABSOLUTELY NOT!

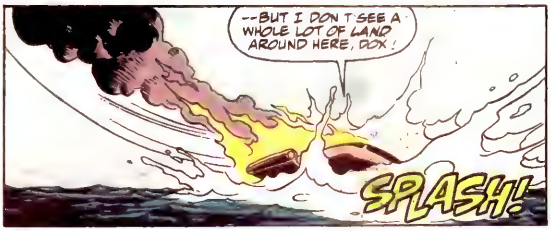
IF YOU OPEN THE HATCH NOW, WE'LL SPIN OUT OF CONTROL SO FAST THAT--
ALERT- ALERT- UNIDENTIFIED CRAFT IS CROSSING YOUR FLIGHT PATH-
EASTAIR
OH, NO! WHAT NEXT?

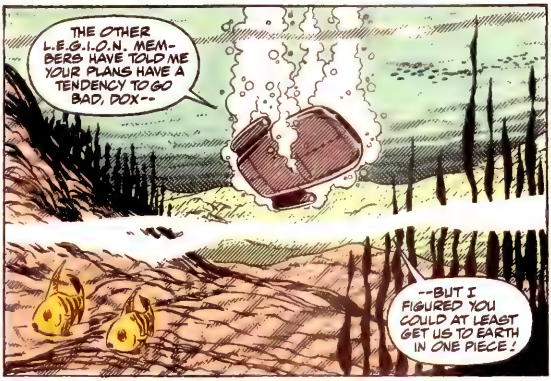

WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?!
YOU'RE NOT GONNA BELIEVE THIS, CAPTAIN, BUT WE'VE JUST BEEN NAILED BY A UFO!
EASTAIR

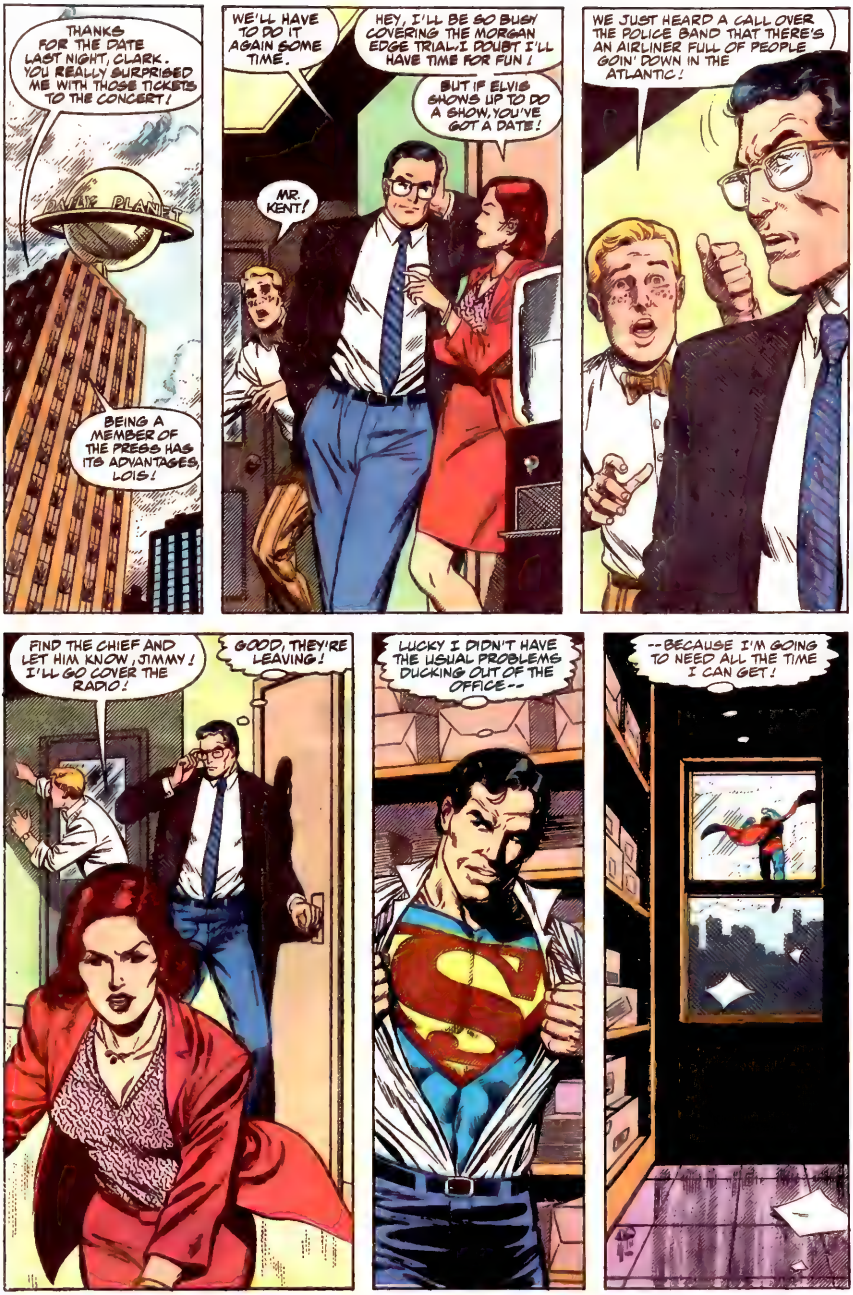
MAYDAY MAYDAY! EASTAIR FLIGHT 247 REPORTING A MIDAIR COLLISION!
WE'RE GOING DOWN!
GOOD LORD, VRIL! YOU JUST CLIPPED ONE OF THE LOCAL AIRSHIPS!


METROPOLIS TOWER TO EASTAIR 247-- CAN YOU MAKE IT TO THE AIRPORT?
NEGATIVE, NEGATIVE. WE'RE HEADED FOR THE DRINK!

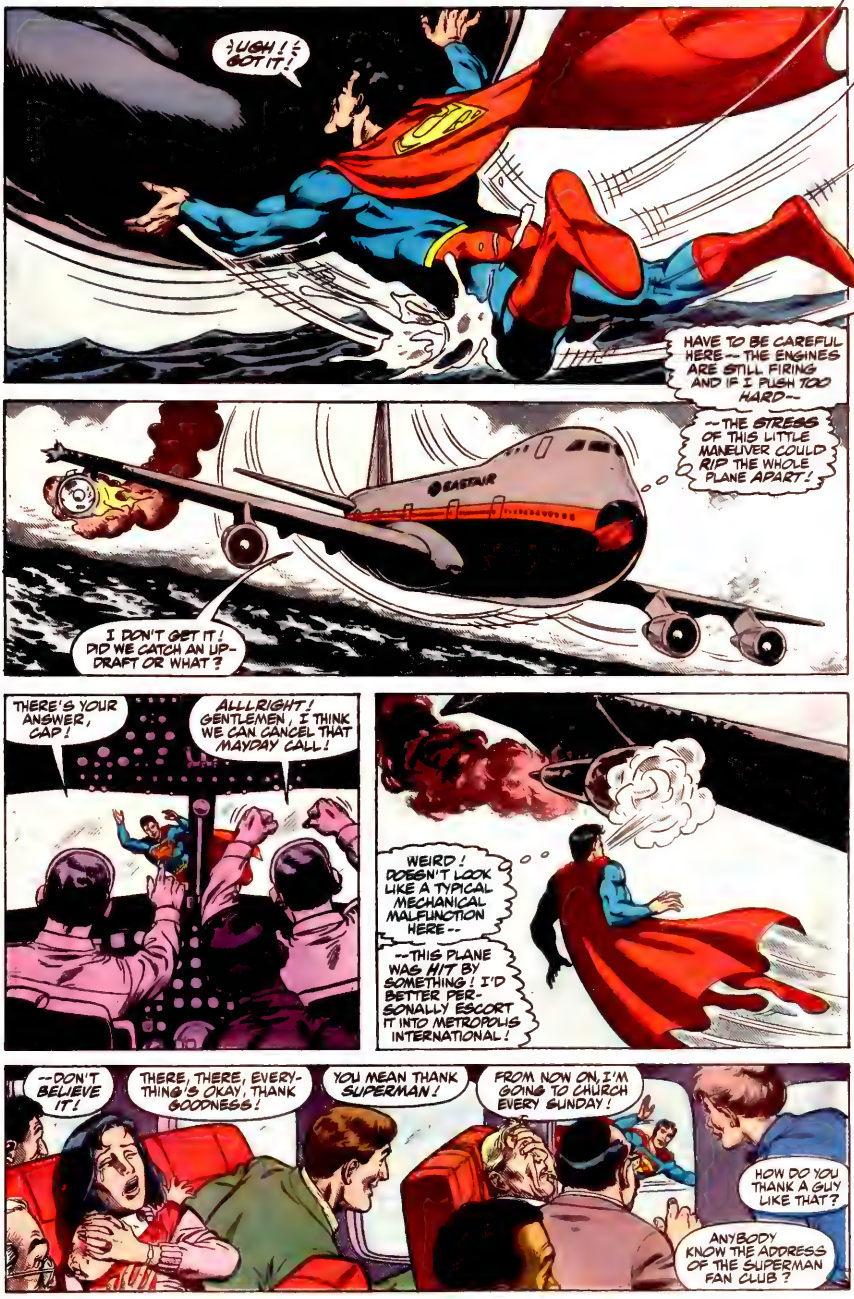
THE LAST THING I NEED IS YOUR BROADCASTING THE OBVIOUS WHILE I'M TRYING TO LAND THIS SHIP!
SOME GOOD THAT'S GONNA DO US! I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU--


--BUT I DON'T SEE A WHOLE LOT OF LAND AROUND HERE, DOX!
SPLASH!

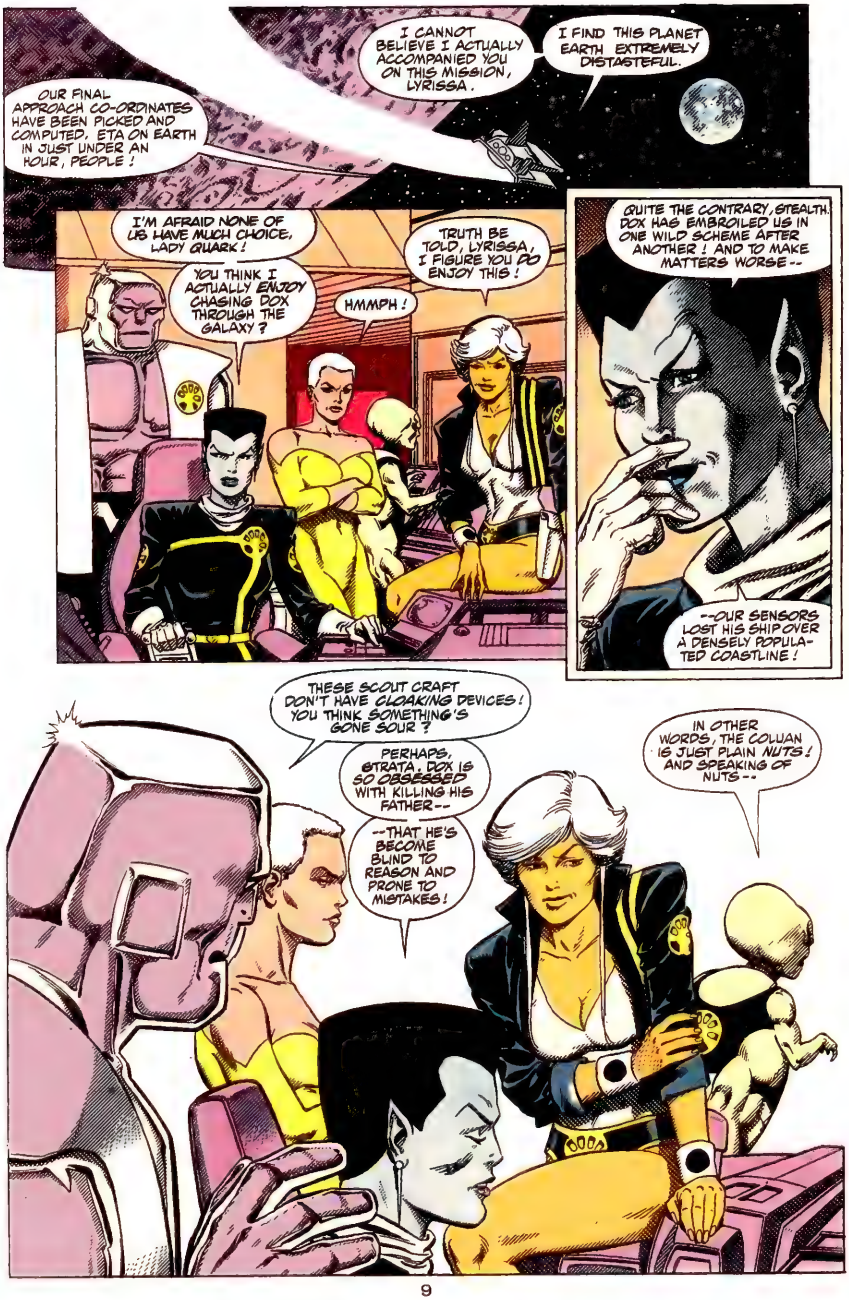

THE OTHER L.E.G.I.O.N. MEMBERS HAVE TOLD ME YOUR PLANS HAVE A TENDENCY TO GO BAD, DOX--
--BUT I FIGURED YOU COULD AT LEAST GET US TO EARTH IN ONE PIECE!


THANKS FOR THE DATE LAST NIGHT, CLARK. YOU REALLY SURPRISED ME WITH THOSE TICKETS TO THE CONCERT!
DAILY PLANET
BEING A MEMBER OF THE PRESS HAS ITS ADVANTAGES, LOIS!
WE'LL HAVE TO DO IT AGAIN SOME TIME.
HEY, I'LL BE SO BUSY COVERING THE MORGAN EDGE TRIAL I DOUBT I'LL HAVE TIME FOR FUN!
BUT IF ELVIS SHOWS UP TO DO A SHOW, YOU'VE GOT A DATE!
MR. KENT!
WE JUST HEARD A CALL OVER THE POLICE BAND THAT THERE'S AN AIRLINER FULL OF PEOPLE GOIN' DOWN IN THE ATLANTIC!
FIND THE CHIEF AND LET HIM KNOW, JIMMY! I'LL GO COVER THE RADIO!
GOOD, THEY'RE LEAVING!
LUCKY I DIDN'T HAVE THE USUAL PROBLEMS DUCKING OUT OF THE OFFICE--
--BECAUSE I'M GOING TO NEED ALL THE TIME I CAN GET!

EVEN IF I HAVE THE SPEED AND POWER NECESSARY TO REACH THE AIRLINER, IF I DON'T HOME IN ON IT QUICK, I --
WAIT!
THAT'S IT, CHET-- SHE JUST DROPPED OFF THE SCOPE!
THOSE POOR SOULS-- IF THEY'VE DROPPED BELOW RADAR LEVELS, THEY'RE GONERS!
THANKS TO MY INFRA-RED VISION, I CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF THE PLANE'S HEAT TRAIL--
--BUT THIS IS GOING TO BE CLOSE!
HAVE TO KICK INTO OVERDRIVE!

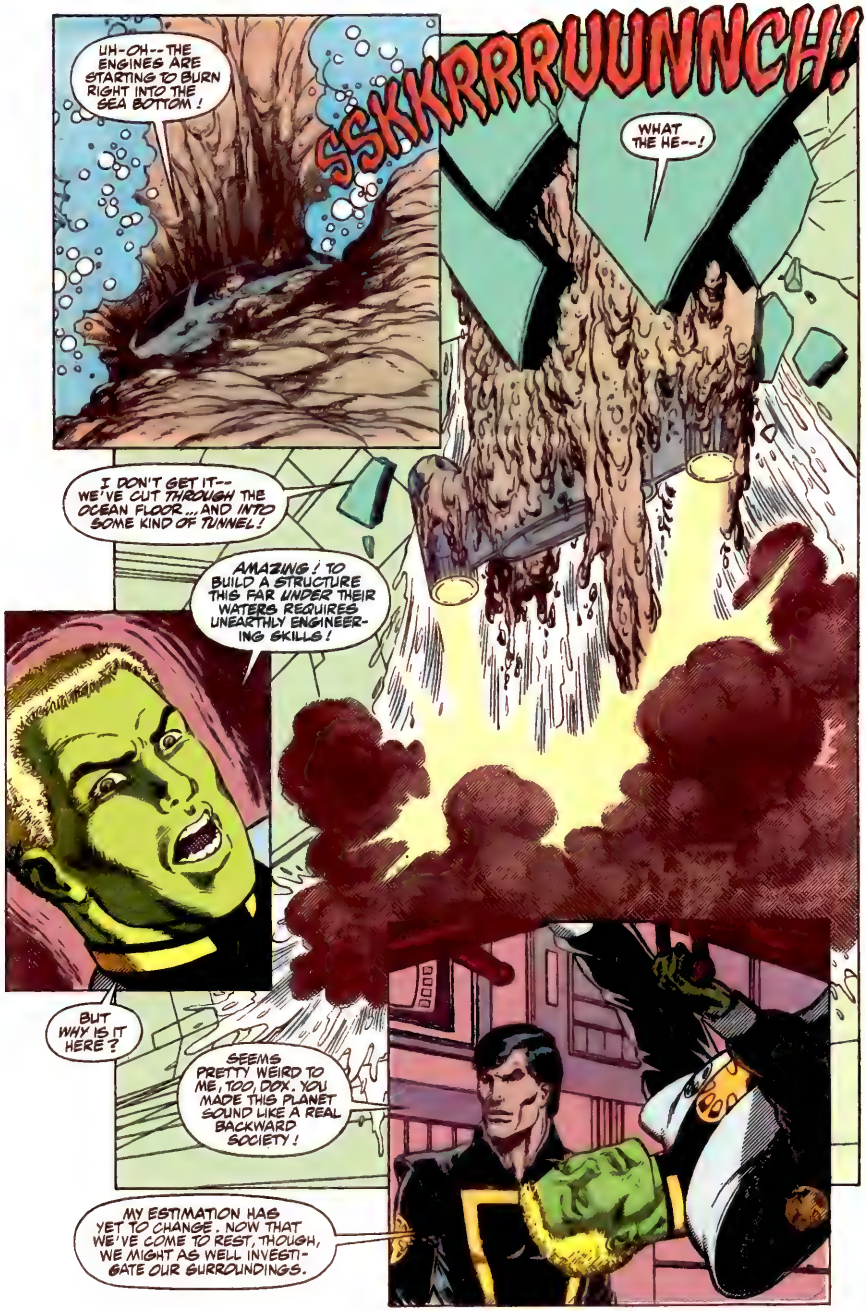

UGH! I GOT IT!
HAVE TO BE CAREFUL HERE -- THE ENGINES ARE STILL FIRING AND IF I PUSH TOO HARD--
--THE STRESS OF THIS LITTLE MANEUVER COULD RIP THE WHOLE PLANE APART!
EASTAIR
I DON'T GET IT! DID WE CATCH AN UP-DRAFT OR WHAT?
THERE'S YOUR ANSWER, CAP!
ALLRIGHT! GENTLEMEN, I THINK WE CAN CANCEL THAT MAYDAY CALL!
WEIRD! DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A TYPICAL MECHANICAL MALFUNCTION HERE--
--THIS PLANE WAS HIT BY SOMETHING! I'D BETTER PERSONALLY ESCORT IT INTO METROPOLIS INTERNATIONAL!
--DON'T BELIEVE IT!
THERE, THERE, EVERYTHING'S OKAY, THANK GOODNESS!
YOU MEAN THANK SUPERMAN!
FROM NOW ON, I'M GOING TO CHURCH EVERY SUNDAY!
HOW DO YOU THANK A GUY LIKE THAT?
ANYBODY KNOW THE ADDRESS OF THE SUPERMAN FAN CLUB?

THE BIRD'S ON THE GROUND AND IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE INJURY-FREE HERE. OVER.
HOW 'BOUT WE TAKE THE TRAIN THE REST OF THE WAY?
YOU DON'T HEAR ME ARGUING!
--UNLIKELY AS IT SOUNDS, WE WERE ACTUALLY CLIPPED BY A UFO! I KNOW YOU WON'T BELIEVE ME, BUT--
ON THE CONTRARY, CAPTAIN, WITH ALL THE WILD THINGS I'VE SEEN, I DON'T DOUBT YOU AT ALL!
WELL, THAT THING CAME SHOOTIN' OUT OF THE ATMOSPHERE AND SWIPED US GOOD!
WASN'T ONE OF OURS EITHER... THERE'S NO WAY IT CAME FROM EARTH!
WHEN SOMETHING LIKE THIS HAPPENS, I GET WORRIED-- IS SOMEONE LOOKING FOR ME?
MAXIMA? DRAAGA LOOKING TO PICK UP HIS FIGHT WHERE WE LEFT OFF?
FOR ALL I KNOW, DARKSEID'S STIRRING UP TROUBLE AGAIN!
BETTER GIVE THE SCENE OF THE CRIME A QUICK CHECK-OVER!
EVERY TIME I SEE HIM, I FEEL KINDA INSIGNIFICANT...
GUY MAKES ME WISH I COULD FLY!

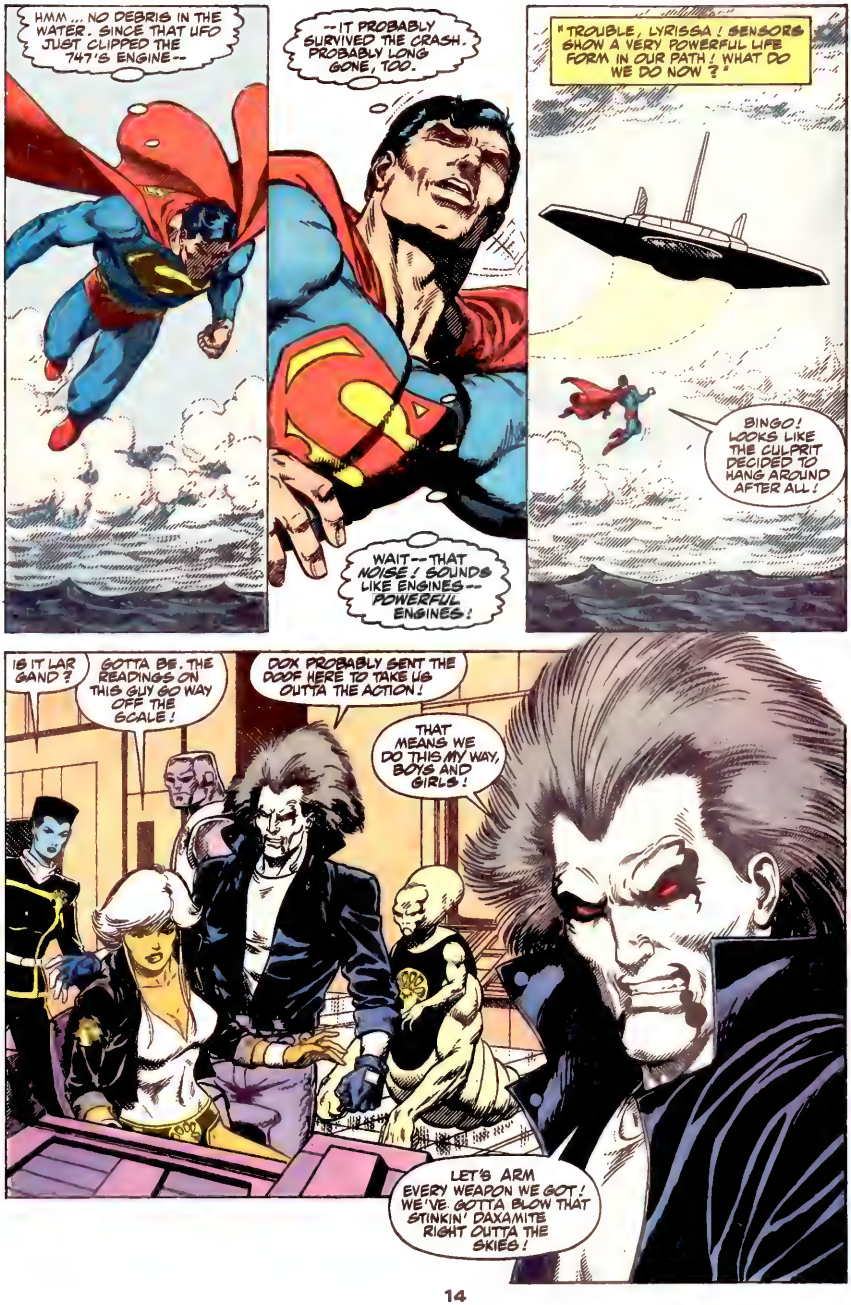

OUR FINAL APPROACH CO-ORDINATES HAVE BEEN PICKED AND COMPUTED. ETA ON EARTH IN JUST UNDER AN HOUR, PEOPLE!
I CANNOT BELIEVE I ACTUALLY ACCOMPANIED YOU ON THIS MISSION, LYRISSA.
I FIND THIS PLANET EARTH EXTREMELY DISTASTEFUL.
I'M AFRAID NONE OF US HAVE MUCH CHOICE, LADY QUARK!
YOU THINK I ACTUALLY ENJOY CHASING DOX THROUGH THE GALAXY?
HMMPH!
TRUTH BE TOLD, LYRISSA, I FIGURE YOU DO ENJOY THIS!
QUITE THE CONTRARY, STEALTH. DOX HAS EMBROILED US IN ONE WILD SCHEME AFTER ANOTHER! AND TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE--
--OUR SENSORS LOST HIS SHIP OVER A DENSELY POPULATED COASTLINE!
THESE SCOUT CRAFT DON'T HAVE CLOAKING DEVICES! YOU THINK SOMETHING'S GONE SOUR?
PERHAPS, STRATA. DOX IS SO OBSESSED WITH KILLING HIS FATHER--
--THAT HE'S BECOME BLIND TO REASON AND PRONE TO MISTAKES!
IN OTHER WORDS, THE COLUAN IS JUST PLAIN NUTS! AND SPEAKING OF NUTS--

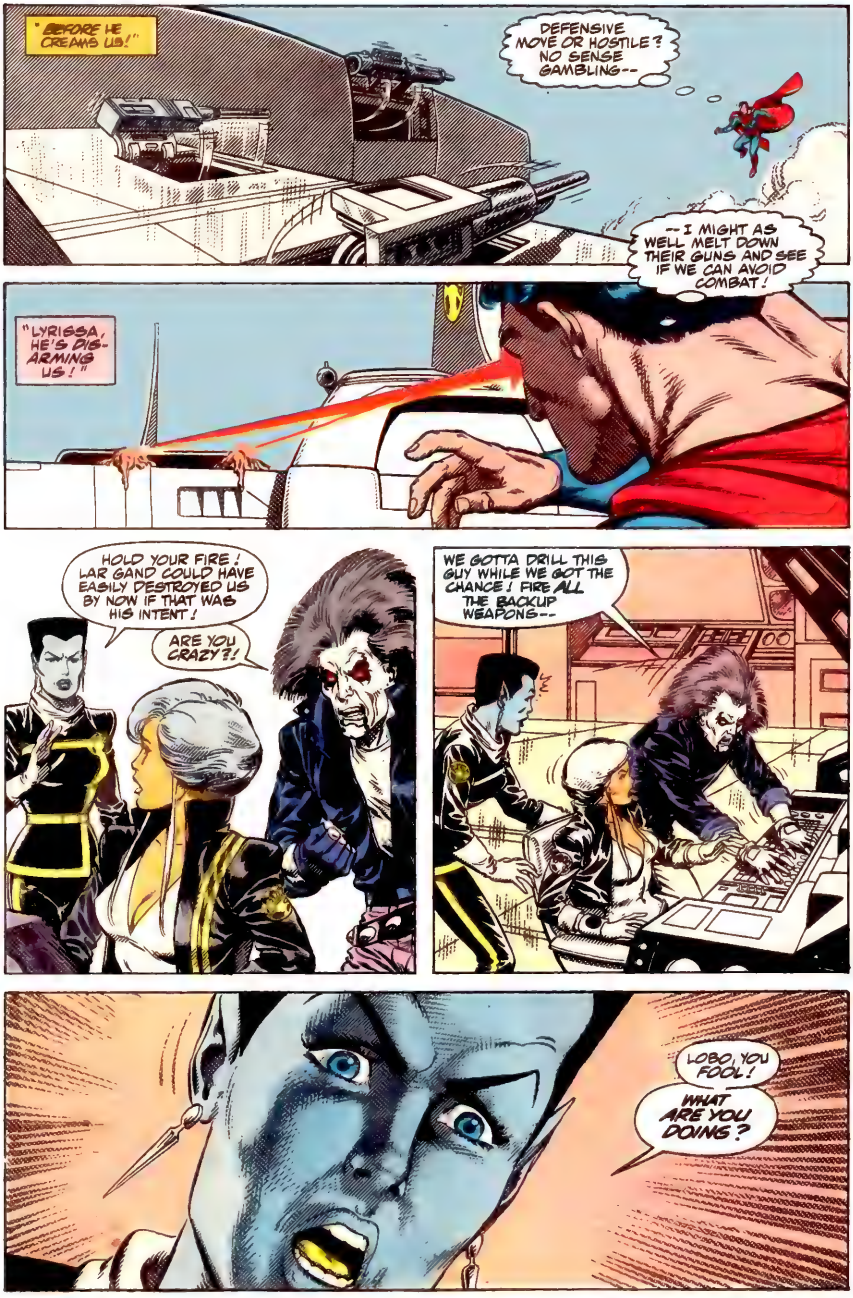
"--WHERE'S OUR RESIDENT MANIAC?"
FISHY, FISHY, FROM THE DRINK HOW I WONDER WHAT YOU'D THINK
IF YOU COULD SEE ME WASTIN' 'WAY IN THIS RUSTY CRATE OF GREY
YOU'D SEE MY LIFE BECOME A DRAG 'CUZ I GOT NO ONE TO FRAG!
OH, VOODOO...
WE'RE ABOUT TO DROP INTO EARTH ORBIT AND LYRISSA WANTS US ALL ON THE COMMAND DECK!
SP--SP!
PHASE!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?! CAN'T YOU USE THE FRAGGIN' DOOR LIKE ANY NORMAL PERSON?!
I NEVER REALIZED YOU WERE SUCH A POET!
FEETAL'S GIZZ, I HATE THESE GUYS! SOMEDAY ... SOMEDAY...
...I'M GONNA FRAG THE WHOLE LOT OF 'EM!

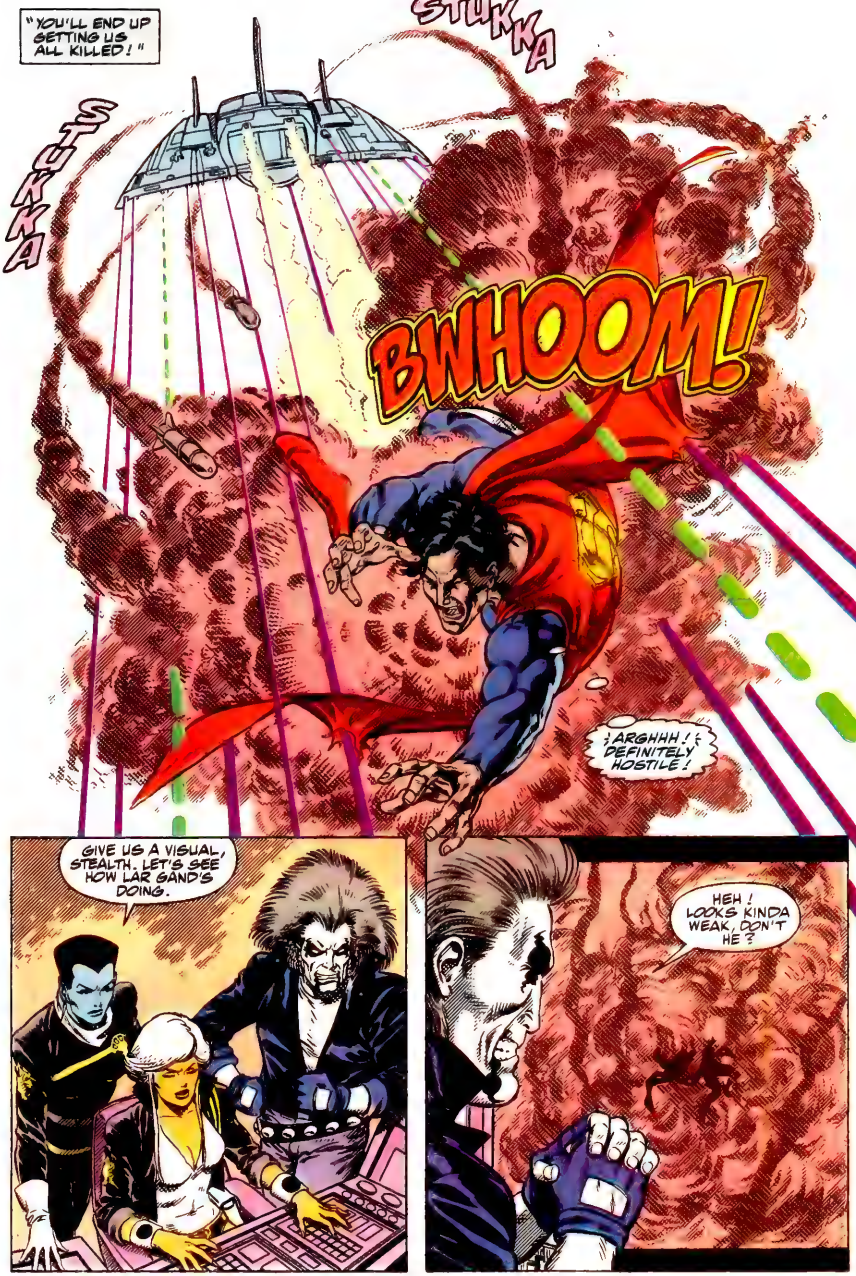
"AND I'M GONNA START WITH THAT CREEP DOX!"
WE'VE GONE FROM BAD TO WORSE, LAR GAND!
WHEN YOU FUSED THAT CIRCUIT BOARD WITH YOUR HEAT VISION, YOU FROZE THE STARDRIVE IN A PERMANENT FIRE MODE!
YOU MIGHT REMEMBER THAT I WAS A BIT BUSY AT THE TIME!
BESIDES, IF IT'S A PROBLEM, WE CAN JUST ABANDON SHIP! IT'S NO PROBLEM FOR ME TO GET US TO THE SURFACE!
FORGET THAT NOTION!
WHEN IT COMES TO SPACE TRAVEL, EARTH IS STILL A PRIMITIVE PLACE!
IF THOSE ENGINES KEEP BURNING AND EXHAUST OUR FUEL SUPPLY, WE'LL BE STRANDED HERE!


UH-OH--THE ENGINES ARE STARTING TO BURN RIGHT INTO THE SEA BOTTOM!
SSKKRRRUUNNCH!
WHAT THE HE--!
I DON'T GET IT-- WE'VE CUT THROUGH THE OCEAN FLOOR... AND INTO SOME KIND OF TUNNEL!
AMAZING! TO BUILD A STRUCTURE THIS FAR UNDER THEIR WATERS REQUIRES UNEARTHLY ENGINEERING SKILLS!
BUT WHY IS IT HERE?
SEEMS PRETTY WEIRD TO ME, TOO, DOX. YOU MADE THIS PLANET SOUND LIKE A REAL BACKWARD SOCIETY!
MY ESTIMATION HAS YET TO CHANGE. NOW THAT WE'VE COME TO REST, THOUGH, WE MIGHT AS WELL INVESTIGATE OUR SURROUNDINGS.

WON'T BE MUCH TO INVESTIGATE IF I DON'T GET THIS HOLE PATCHED UP!
I ASSUME YOU'RE QUITE CAPABLE OF REPAIRING THE DAMAGE, LAR GAND.
ISN'T THAT WHY YOU BROUGHT ME, DOX?
TO TAKE CARE OF ANY PROBLEMS YOU CREATED WHILE LOOKING FOR YOUR FATHER?
THERE--GOOD AS NEW.
NOW LET'S SEE WHAT MADE THIS PLANET SO SPECIAL THAT MY FATHER SACRIFICED HIS LIFE FOR IT DURING THE BIG INVASION.
IT'S NOT YOUR FATHER WE'RE CONCERNED WITH, LAR GAND, BUT MINE!
BY ALL THAT'S HOLY, I'VE SWORN THAT I WILL FIND THE MAN NOW KNOWN AS BRAINIAC AND KILL HIM!


HMM ... NO DEBRIS IN THE WATER. SINCE THAT UFO JUST CLIPPED THE 747'S ENGINE--
--IT PROBABLY SURVIVED THE CRASH. PROBABLY LONG GONE, TOO.
"TROUBLE, LYRISSA! SENSORS SHOW A VERY POWERFUL LIFE FORM IN OUR PATH! WHAT DO WE DO NOW?"
BINGO! LOOKS LIKE THE CULPRIT DECIDED TO HANG AROUND AFTER ALL!
WAIT--THAT NOISE! SOUNDS LIKE ENGINES--POWERFUL ENGINES!
IS IT LAR GAND?
GOTTA BE. THE READINGS ON THIS GUY GO WAY OFF THE SCALE!
DOX PROBABLY SENT THE DOOF HERE TO TAKE US OUTTA THE ACTION!
THAT MEANS WE DO THIS MY WAY, BOYS AND GIRLS!
LET'S ARM EVERY WEAPON WE GOT! WE'VE GOTTA BLOW THAT STINKIN' DAXAMITE RIGHT OUTTA THE SKIES!


"BEFORE HE CREAMS US!"
DEFENSIVE MOVE OR HOSTILE? NO SENSE GAMBLING--
--I MIGHT AS WELL MELT DOWN THEIR GUNS AND SEE IF WE CAN AVOID COMBAT!
"LYRISSA, HE'S DISARMING US!"
HOLD YOUR FIRE! LAR GAND COULD HAVE EASILY DESTROYED US BY NOW IF THAT WAS HIS INTENT!
ARE YOU CRAZY?!
WE GOTTA DRILL THIS GUY WHILE WE GOT THE CHANCE! FIRE ALL THE BACKUP WEAPONS--
LOBO, YOU FOOL!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

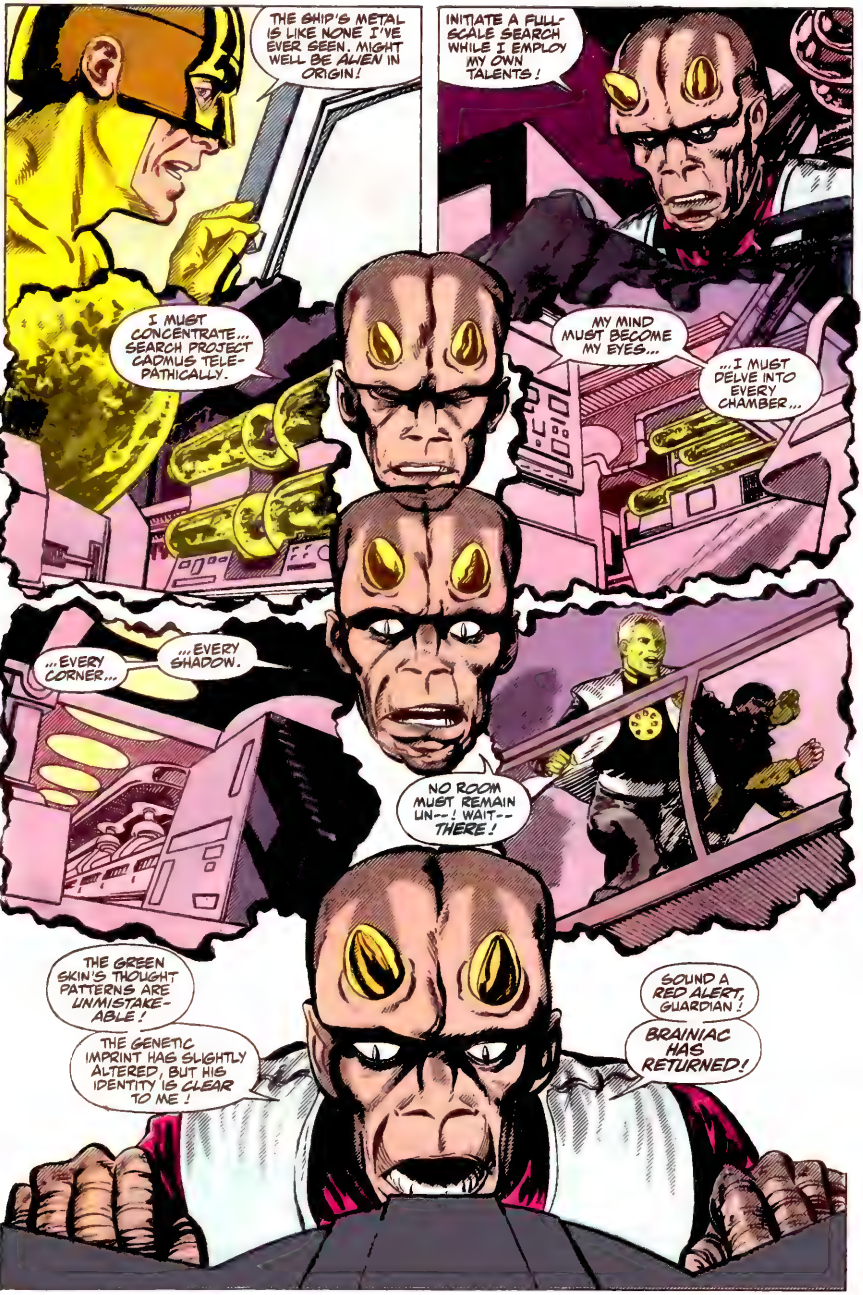

"YOU'LL END UP GETTING US ALL KILLED!"
STUKKA
KKTS
BWHOOM!
¡ARGHHH!¡ DEFINITELY HOSTILE!
GIVE US A VISUAL, STEALTH. LET'S SEE HOW LAR GAND'S DOING.
HEH! LOOKS KINDA WEAK, DON'T HE?

THAT BEIN' THE CASE, I SAY WE DON'T LET THE SUCKER OFF THE CANVAS!
LOBO, GET BACK HERE!
FORGET IT, STRATA! THIS GUY'S GOT IT COMIN'
NOTHIN' MORE THAN THAT CREEP DOX'S ERRAND BOY AND YOU KNOW THAT AS WELL AS I DO!
I'M DOIN' US ALL A FAVOR BY FRAGGIN' THE BOZO!
WISH THIS CRUMMY SMOKE WOULD CLEAR! I ENJOY SEEIN' MY VICTIMS BLEED!
NOT THIS TIME, FELLA!
}UNNGHF!{
O'BOY, I JUST LUUUV A GOOD SCRAP!
KRAK

GLAD TO HEAR IT, BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO GET!
HAW! THAT YOUR BEST SHOT, LAR GAND?
LAR--?
YOU AIN'T GONNA LAST A MINUTE AGAINST ME!
THAT VOICE--
--THOSE BOOTS--
--IT CAN'T BE!
LOBO?!
HEY, YOU AIN'T LAR GAND!
YER THAT KRYPTON GUY!
YER SUPERMAN, AIN'TCHA?
END OF CHAPTER ONE!

Chapter Two:
Discoveries
NONE OF THIS MAKES ANY SENSE!
WE'VE WALKED FOR MILES AND WE'RE STILL UNDER-GROUND!
I WOULD CALCULATE WE'RE UNDER THE CITY CALLED METROPOLIS NOW!
WHAT PURPOSE COULD SUCH A COMPLEX HAVE AND HOW CAN IT EXIST ON THIS TECHNOLOGICALLY INFERIOR PLANET?
I HAVE TO ADMIT, DOX--
--I DO ENJOY SEEING A KNOW-IT-ALL LIKE YOU GET PUZZLED!

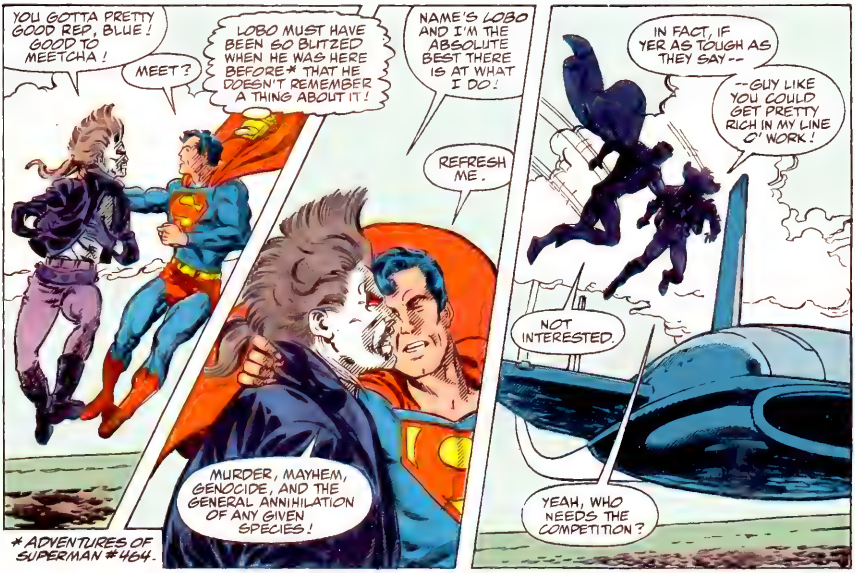
LAR GAND, THE TECHNOLOGY HERE INVOLVES GENETIC EXPERIMENTATION--
--SOMETHING I THOUGHT THIS PLANET INCAPABLE OF.
I'M GLAD THIS STUFF IMPRESSES YOU. MAKES ME FEEL LIKE MY FATHER DIED PROTECTING SOMETHING WORTHWHILE.
TRUE, THIS PLANET SHOULD HAVE SUCCUMBED TO THE INVASION--
--BUT, LUCKILY FOR THEM, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF VERY POWERFUL META-HUMANS HERE!
THAT ALONE MAKES EARTH SPECIAL.
AND THESE COMPUTERS ARE PROBABLY THEIR WORLD'S FINEST.
IF WE CAN GAIN ACCESS TO THEIR MEMORY BANKS, WE MAY FIND THE INFORMATION WE NEED TO FIND MY FATHER--
"--SO WE CAN ESCAPE THIS PLACE BEFORE WE'RE DISCOVERED!"
INCREDIBLE.
GUARDIAN TO DUBBILEX. THE SECTOR SEVEN SENSORS WERE RIGHT!
PROJECT CADMUS HAS BEEN BREACHED!


THE SHIP'S METAL IS LIKE NONE I'VE EVER SEEN. MIGHT WELL BE ALIEN IN ORIGIN!
INITIATE A FULL-SCALE SEARCH WHILE I EMPLOY MY OWN TALENTS!
I MUST CONCENTRATE... SEARCH PROJECT CADMUS TELE-PATHICALLY.
MY MIND MUST BECOME MY EYES...
...I MUST DELVE INTO EVERY CHAMBER...
...EVERY CORNER...
...EVERY SHADOW.
NO ROOM MUST REMAIN UN--! WAIT-- THERE!
THE GREEN SKIN'S THOUGHT PATTERNS ARE UNMISTAKE-ABLE!
THE GENETIC IMPRINT HAS SLIGHTLY ALTERED, BUT HIS IDENTITY IS CLEAR TO ME!
SOUND A RED ALERT, GUARDIAN!
BRAINIAC HAS RETURNED!

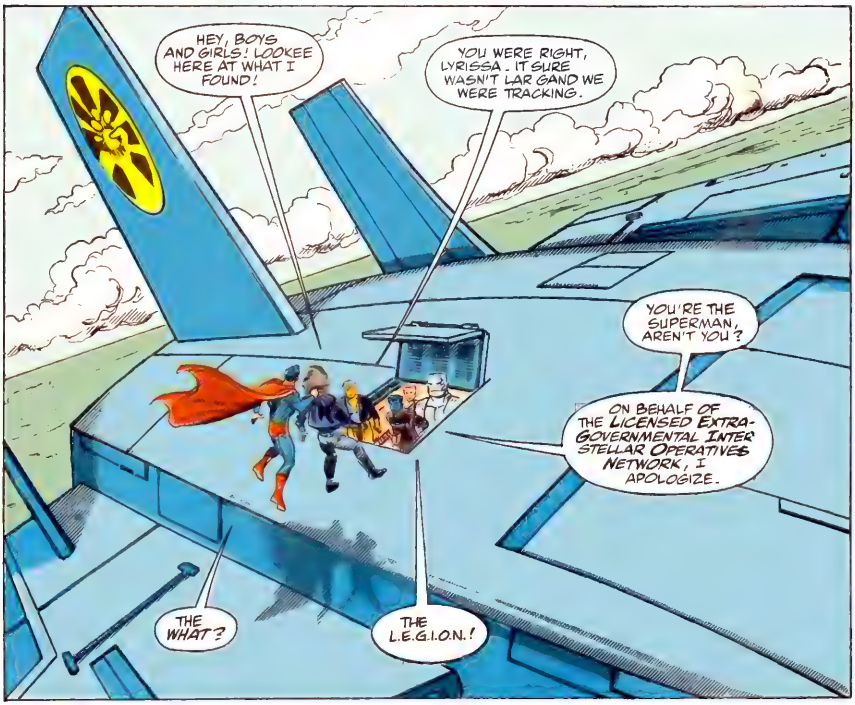
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT WE'RE SO CLOSE--THAT MY FATHER'S LIFE IS ALMOST MINE!
YOU SOUND OBSESSED, DOX. ALMOST SICK!
VRIL DOX SR. WAS A VERY EVIL MAN.
HE AIDED THE COMPUTER TYRANTS OF COLU IN THEIR RULE IN EXCHANGE FOR A FREE PURSUIT OF SCIENCE.
"INDIVIDUAL LIVES WERE WORTHLESS TO HIM. THERE WAS ONLY COLD, SOULLESS KNOWLEDGE.
"EVENTUALLY HE 'CREATED' ME--NOT AS A SON BUT AS AN ASSISTANT IN HIS CRAZED PURSUITS!
"WHEN HIS BODY OF KNOWLEDGE BECAME A THREAT TO THE COMPUTER TYRANTS, THEY DESTROYED HIM--
"--AND TURNED ME OVER TO THE INVASION ARMIES!
"I WAS DETERMINED TO ERADICATE ALL TERRORIST RULE FROM THE GALAXY AND ATONE FOR MY FATHER'S CRIMES.
"ONCE EARTH FOUGHT OFF HER INVADERS, I FORMED L.E.G.I.O.N.--
"--AND WE LIBERATED MILLIONS OF OPPRESSED ON COLU!"

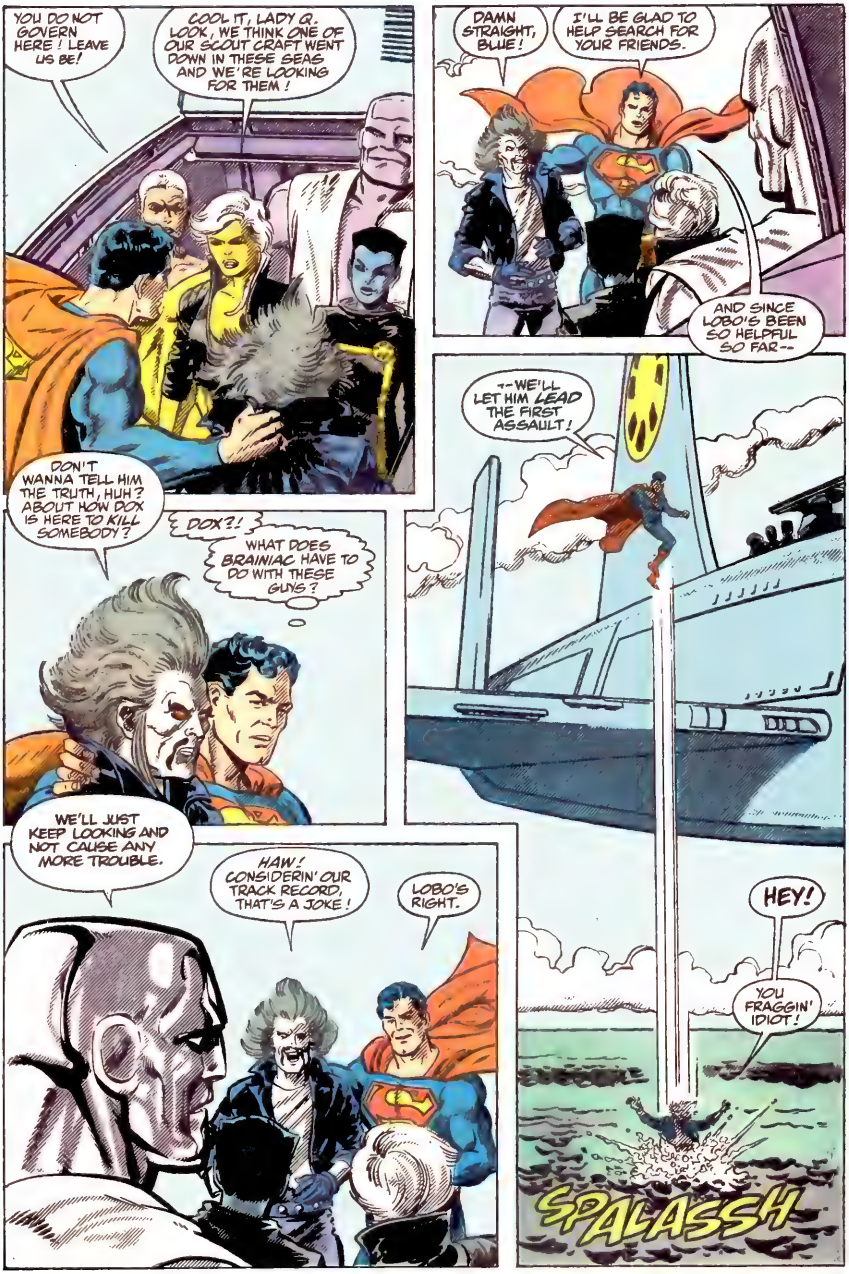
AND ONCE WE FIND HIM, MY FATHER WILL PAY THE ULTIMATE PRICE FOR HIS SINS!
I THOUGHT YOU SAID HE WAS DEAD!
I DON'T KNOW HOW HE MANAGED TO SURVIVE OR COME HERE AND BECOME KNOWN AS BRAINIAC--
--NOR WILL IT MATTER WHEN HE'S DEAD.
WAP!
FREEZE, FELLAS! WHEN YOU INVADE PROJECT CADMUS, YOU START A WAR!
WE'VE BEEN DISCOVERED, VRIL!
LOOKS LIKE THINGS ARE GOING TO GET TOUGHER FROM HERE ON!
IF YOU CAN AVOID IT, DON'T KILL HIM. OUR QUARREL ISN'T WITH THESE HUMANS!

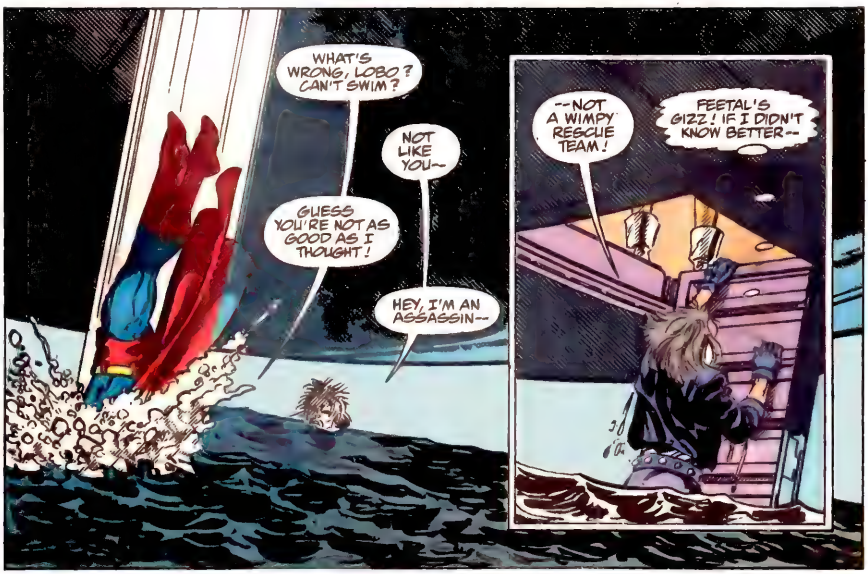
YOU'RE TOUGH, KID! MAYBE AS TOUGH AS SUPERMAN!
PLEASE, I--! WHOA!
WHAT'S THAT SHIELD MADE OF?
REMEMBER WHAT I SAID, GAND!
RUN, VRIL! THERE'RE MORE OF THEM!
FIND THE INFORMATION YOU NEED IN A HURRY!
ON MY WAY! BUT REMEMBER THAT THE CITY OF METROPOLIS IS SUPERMAN'S TERRITORY--
--AND THE LAST THING WE WANT TO DO IS GET HIM INVOLVED IN THIS!

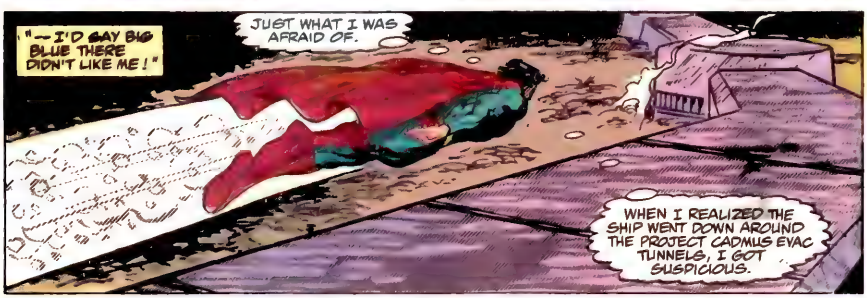

YOU GOTTA PRETTY GOOD REP, BLUE! GOOD TO MEETCHA!
MEET?
LOBO MUST HAVE BEEN SO BLITZED WHEN HE WAS HERE BEFORE* THAT HE DOESN'T REMEMBER A THING ABOUT IT!
NAME'S LOBO AND I'M THE ABSOLUTE BEST THERE IS AT WHAT I DO!
REFRESH ME.
MURDER, MAYHEM, GENOCIDE, AND THE GENERAL ANNIHILATION OF ANY GIVEN SPECIES!
IN FACT, IF YER AS TOUGH AS THEY SAY--
--GUY LIKE YOU COULD GET PRETTY RICH IN MY LINE O' WORK!
NOT INTERESTED.
YEAH, WHO NEEDS THE COMPETITION?

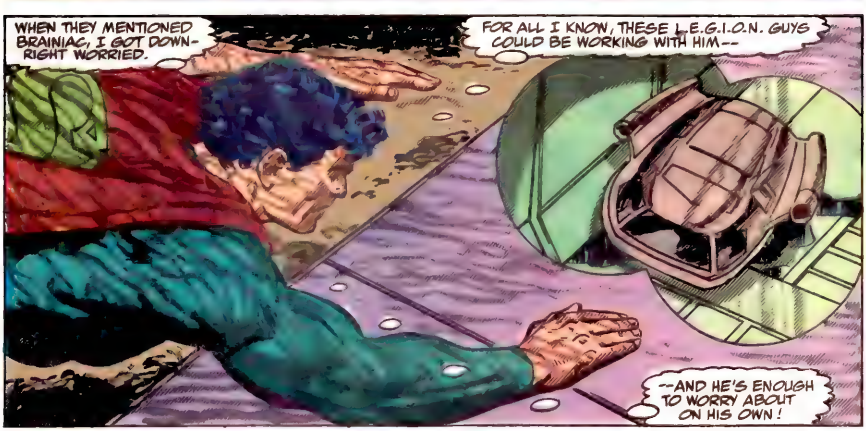
*ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #464.


HEY, BOYS AND GIRLS! LOOKEE HERE AT WHAT I FOUND!
YOU WERE RIGHT, LYRISSA. IT SURE WASN'T LAR GAND WE WERE TRACKING.
YOU'RE THE SUPERMAN, AREN'T YOU?
ON BEHALF OF THE LICENSED EXTRA-GOVERNMENTAL INTER STELLAR OPERATIVES NETWORK, I APOLOGIZE.
THE WHAT?
THE L.E.G.I.O.N.!


YOU DO NOT GOVERN HERE! LEAVE US BE!
COOL IT, LADY Q. LOOK, WE THINK ONE OF OUR SCOUT CRAFT WENT DOWN IN THESE SEAS AND WE'RE LOOKING FOR THEM!
DAMN STRAIGHT, BLUE!
I'LL BE GLAD TO HELP SEARCH FOR YOUR FRIENDS.
AND SINCE LOBO'S BEEN SO HELPFUL SO FAR--
--WE'LL LET HIM LEAD THE FIRST ASSAULT!
DON'T WANNA TELL HIM THE TRUTH, HUH? ABOUT HOW DOX IS HERE TO KILL SOMEBODY?
DOX?!
WHAT DOES BRAINIAC HAVE TO DO WITH THESE GUYS?
WE'LL JUST KEEP LOOKING AND NOT CAUSE ANY MORE TROUBLE.
HAW! CONSIDERIN' OUR TRACK RECORD, THAT'S A JOKE!
LOBO'S RIGHT.
HEY!
YOU FRAGGIN' IDIOT!
SPLASSH

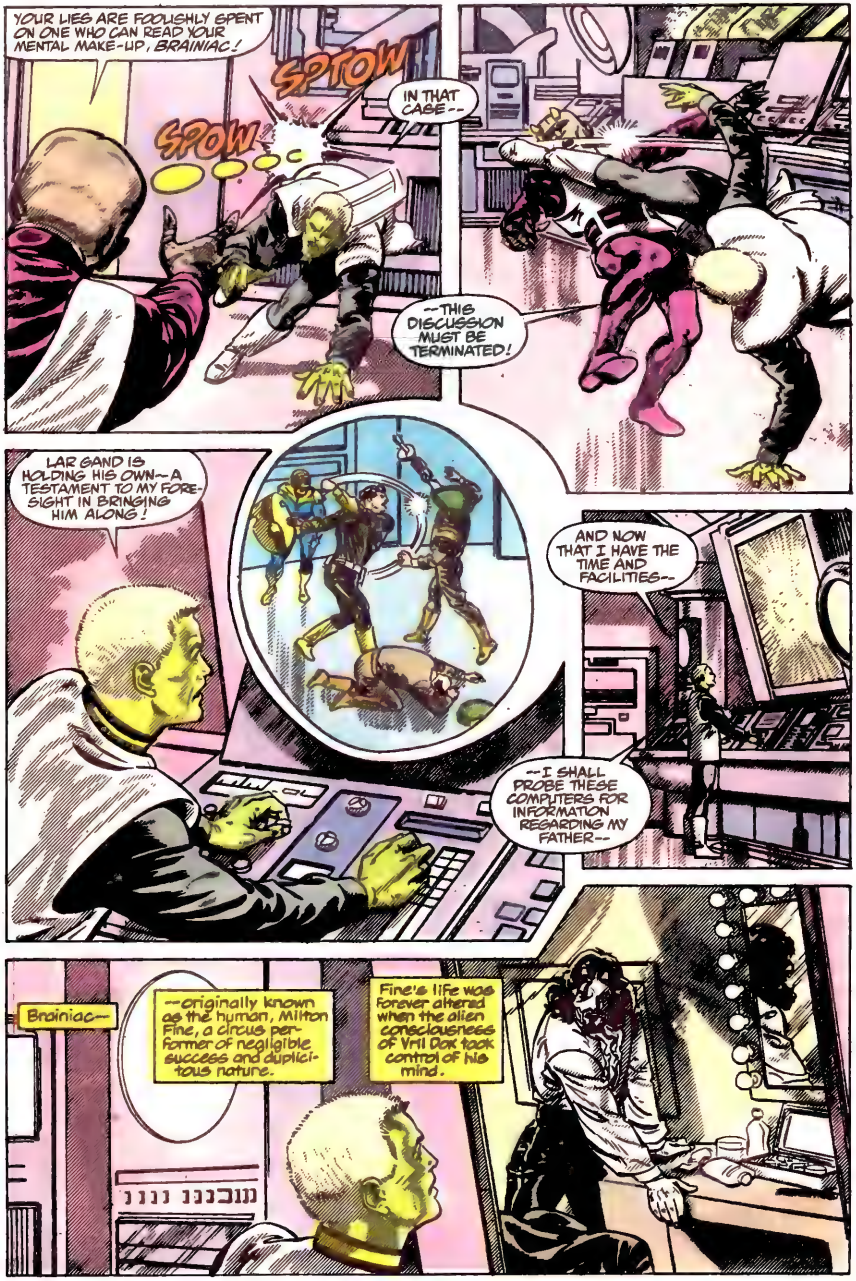

WHAT'S WRONG, LOBO? CAN'T SWIM?
NOT LIKE YOU--
GUESS YOU'RE NOT AS GOOD AS I THOUGHT!
HEY, I'M AN ASSASSIN--
--NOT A WIMPY RESCUE TEAM!
FEETAL'S GIZZ! IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER--


"--I'D SAY BIG BLUE THERE DIDN'T LIKE ME!"
JUST WHAT I WAS AFRAID OF.
WHEN I REALIZED THE SHIP WENT DOWN AROUND THE PROJECT CADMUS EVAC TUNNELS, I GOT SUSPICIOUS.

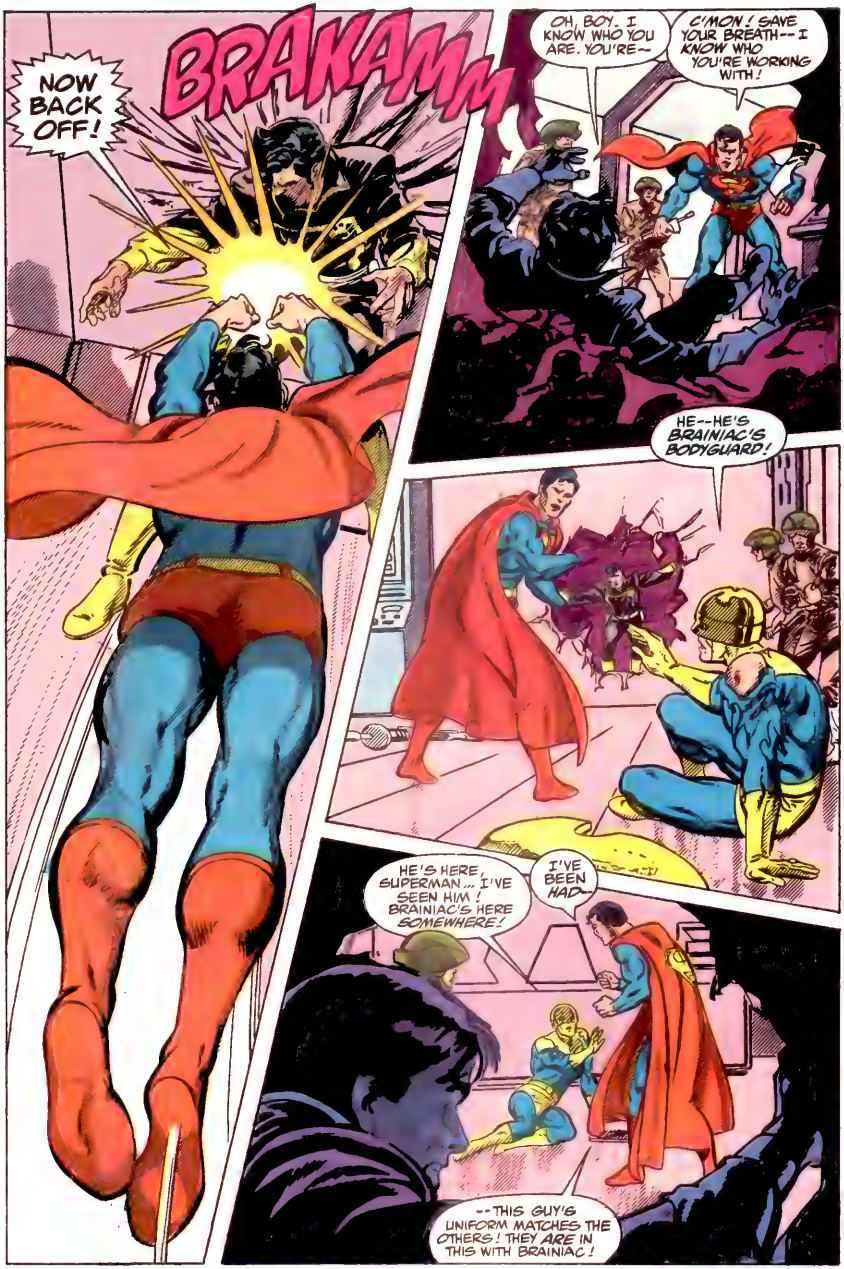

WHEN THEY MENTIONED BRAINIAC, I GOT DOWN-RIGHT WORRIED.
FOR ALL I KNOW, THESE L.E.G.I.O.N. GUYS COULD BE WORKING WITH HIM--
--AND HE'S ENOUGH TO WORRY ABOUT ON HIS OWN!

ANYONE CAN COME UP WITH A NAME THAT SOUNDS OFFICIAL--
--BUT FOR ALL I KNOW, THEY'RE HERE TO INVADE EARTH!
I REMEMBER LADY QUARK FROM THE BATTLE WITH THE ANTI-MONITOR--
--BUT EVEN THEN SHE SHOWED NO GREAT LOVE FOR EARTH!
AND LOBO'S ALWAYS FOR SALE TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER!
IF SUPERMAN GETS TO DOX BEFORE WE DO, THERE COULD BE TROUBLE!
ANY IDEAS?
YEAH! ONE OF YOU COULD PAY ME TO KILL SUPERMAN!
OR DOX, TOO, FOR THAT MATTER!
PHASE, IT'S UP TO YOU TO FIND DOX FIRST. WE'LL DROP YOU AT THE SAME ENTRANCE SUPERMAN USED.
YEAH, BUT EVEN IF I DO FIND DOX FIRST--
--WHAT DO I DO WITH HIM?
AS OBSESSED AS HE IS, THERE'S NO WAY HE'S GOING TO LEAVE WITHOUT KILLING HIS FATHER!

AMAZING!
--AND STILL THEY ARE NO MATCH FOR THE INVADER!
PROJECT CADMUS'S SECURITY FORCES ARE THE FINEST TROOPS EVER ASSEMBLED--
AND BRAINIAC--
--WHY HAS HE COME HERE? AND WHY DOES HE APPEAR DIFFERENT?
THE ALTERED VISAGE IS NOT WITHOUT PRECEDENT, FOR BRAINIAC HAS CHANGED APPEARANCE MANY TIMES IN THE PAST!
IN FACT--
UNFORTUNATE. I SHOULD HAVE EXPECTED EQUIPMENT OF THIS COMPLEXITY TO BE UNDER GUARD!
YOU'LL NOT WORK YOUR EVIL HERE, BRAINIAC!
HUH?!
PKAZZ
YOU'RE MISTAKEN! I AM NOT BRAINIAC!


YOUR LIES ARE FOOLISHLY SPENT ON ONE WHO CAN READ YOUR MENTAL MAKE-UP, BRAINIAC!
SPOW
SPOW
IN THAT CASE--
--THIS DISCUSSION MUST BE TERMINATED!
LAR GAND IS HOLDING HIS OWN-- A TESTAMENT TO MY FORESIGHT IN BRINGING HIM ALONG!
AND NOW THAT I HAVE THE TIME AND FACILITIES--
--I SHALL PROBE THESE COMPUTERS FOR INFORMATION REGARDING MY FATHER--
Brainiac--
--originally known as the human, Milton Fine, a circus performer of negligible success and duplicitous nature.
Fine's life was forever altered when the alien consciousness of Vril Dox took control of his mind.

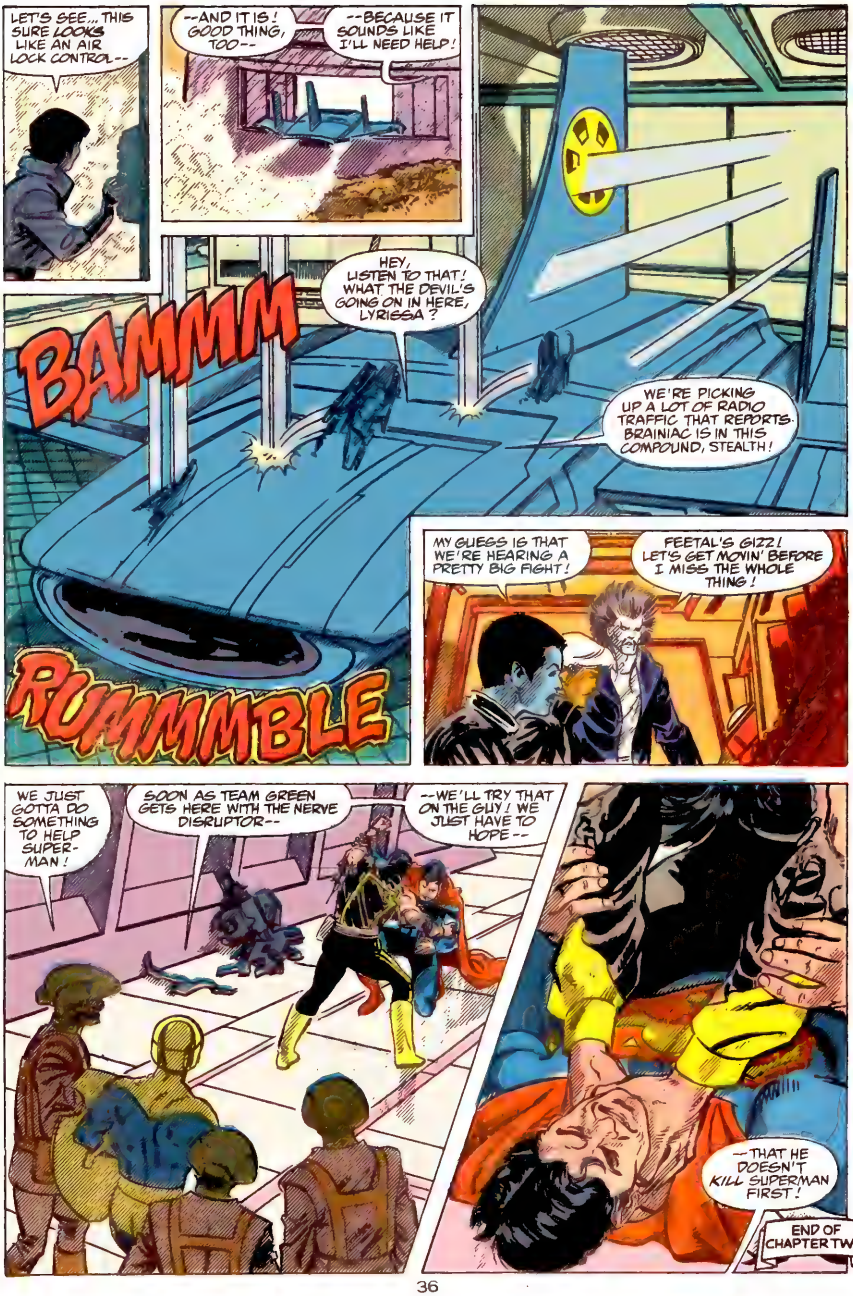
Lex Luthor ultimately captured the re-vitalized Dox--
--and used him as a weapon against Superman.
Dox, however, was too powerful to stay under Luthor's control--
--and ultimately broke free.
Using a rejuvenated body, he eventually kept Superman at bay with his stunning telepathic powers--
--and fled Earth to an undetermined location.
HE'S GONE.
AND I HAVE LOST MY OPPORTUNITY FOR REVENGE AGAIN!
WHY DON'T YOU GIVE UP? QUIT?!
PLEASE, DON'T MAKE ME DO SOMETHING THAT I'LL REGRET.
MAYBE HE'S JUST WAITING FOR THE CAVALRY TO ARRIVE!
WHO THE--?


BRAKAMM
NOW BACK OFF!
OH, BOY. I KNOW WHO YOU ARE. YOU'RE--
C'MON! SAVE YOUR BREATH--I KNOW WHO YOU'RE WORKING WITH!
HE--HE'S BRAINIAC'S BODYGUARD!
HE'S HERE, SUPERMAN... I'VE SEEN HIM! BRAINIAC'S HERE SOMEWHERE!
I'VE BEEN HAD--
--THIS GUY'S UNIFORM MATCHES THE OTHERS! THEY ARE IN THIS WITH BRAINIAC!

I CAN TELL THAT THE CARDS ARE STACKED AGAINST ME--
--THAT YOU WON'T LISTEN TO A THING I HAVE TO SAY!
AND I DON'T CARE, EITHER!
CRAKK
DOX BROUGHT ME ALONG IN CASE YOU SHOWED UP, SUPERMAN--
--BECAUSE HE KNEW A DAXAMITE COULD GO TOE TO TOE AGAINST YOU AND WIN!
YEAH? WELL, I'VE RUN INTO YOUR TYPE BEFORE, KID!
I BEAT THOSE DAXAMITES THEN*--
--AND I'LL DO IT AGAIN TODAY!
*INVASION AGAIN.

I'M AFRAID I'LL HAVE TO DISAGREE!
UNNNGFF!
KRRUNCH
OH, YOU'RE TOUGH, FELLA, BUT THAT'S NOT EVERYTHING!
NNGH!
IT'S SPEED-- REACTION TIME-- ENDURANCE!
UNNF! ENOUGH!
YOU JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT, SUPERMAN?

IT'S ABOUT RIGHT--
--AND WRONG!
¡NNRFF!¡
KRAK
ISN'T IT POSSIBLE THAT SOMEONE ELSE WAS RIGHT ONCE?
TSSSS
ISN'T IT?
I CAME A LONG WAY TO EARTH TO HELP A FRIEND...
BAMM
AND THERE'S NO WAY I CAN LET SOMEONE KEEP ME FROM HELPING THAT FRIEND!
SHLAK
NO WAY!

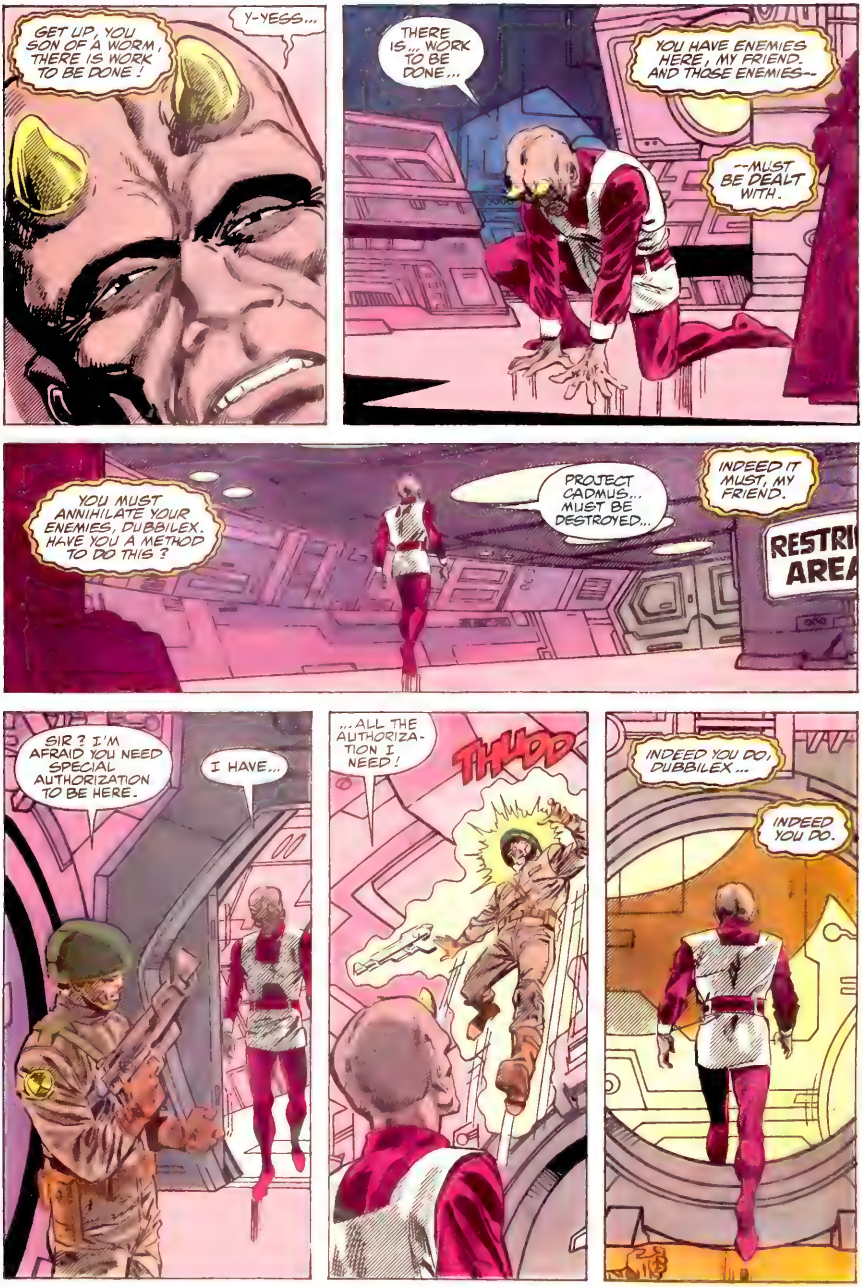

LET'S SEE... THIS SURE LOOKS LIKE AN AIR LOCK CONTROL--
--AND IT IS! GOOD THING, TOO--
--BECAUSE IT SOUNDS LIKE I'LL NEED HELP!
HEY, LISTEN TO THAT! WHAT THE DEVIL'S GOING ON IN HERE, LYRISSA?
BAMMM
WE'RE PICKING UP A LOT OF RADIO TRAFFIC THAT REPORTS BRAINIAC IS IN THIS COMPOUND, STEALTH!
RUMMMBLE
MY GUESS IS THAT WE'RE HEARING A PRETTY BIG FIGHT!
FEETAL'S GIZZ! LET'S GET MOVIN' BEFORE I MISS THE WHOLE THING!
WE JUST GOTTA DO SOMETHING TO HELP SUPER-MAN!
SOON AS TEAM GREEN GETS HERE WITH THE NERVE DISRUPTOR--
--WE'LL TRY THAT ON THE GUY! WE JUST HAVE TO HOPE--
--THAT HE DOESN'T KILL SUPERMAN FIRST!
END OF CHAPTER TWO

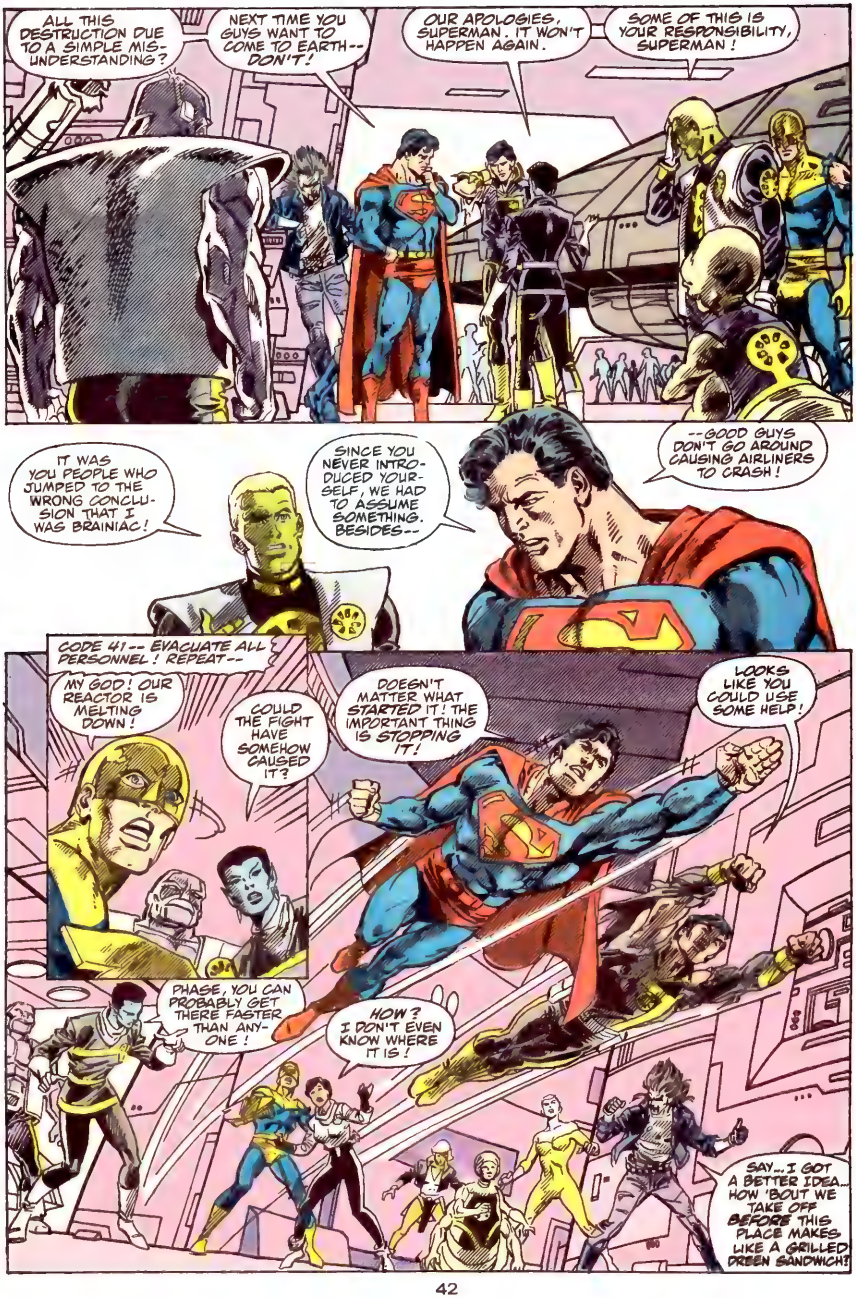
Chapter Three: The FIRES of BRAINIAC
THAT NERVE BLAST SHOULD STUN LAR GAND LONG ENOUGH TO STRAIGHTEN THIS MESS OUT!
I DON'T THINK SO, LYRISSA! LOOKS TO ME LIKE LOBO'S GONNA MAKE THINGS A WHOLE LOT WORSE!
SPEOW
FEETAL'S GIZZ! NOW, THIS IS THE SORTA STUFF THAT MAKES LIFE WORTH LIVIN'!
YEE-HAHH!
I DON'T GET IT! FIRST THEY SHOOT THEIR OWN GUY--
--AND THEN THEY SEND THAT MANIAC AFTER ME!

NO MATTER-- LOBO'S BAD NEWS NO MATTER WHAT THE SITUATION IS!
OOOOF! THAT SMARTS!
BACK OFF, MISTER! MAKE ANOTHER MOVE AND I'M GOING TO HAVE TO DO SOMETHING YOUR HEAD MIGHT REGRET!
OOO, THEM'S FIGHTIN' WORDS, M' FRIEND.
AND SINCE I OWE YOU FER THAT DUNKIN' YOU GAVE ME--
--LET'S RUMBLE!
LOOKS LIKE I HELD YOU UNDERWATER A LITTLE TOO LONG-- YOU'RE NOT THINKING STRAIGHT!
NOT IF YOU STILL WANT TO MIX IT UP WITH ME!
I CAN BREATHE ANYWHERE, BIG BLUE-- SO I'M OPERATIN' AT FULL CAPACITY!
TOO BAD FER YOUR FACE!
THE SITUATION IS RAPIDLY DETERIORATING. BASED ON THE DEFENSIVE RESPONSES OF THIS INSTALLATION--
--I WOULD THEORIZE EVERYONE HERE THINKS I AM BRAINIAC HIMSELF!
A NATURAL RESPONSE FOR A PEOPLE AS PRIMITIVE AS THIS, I SUPPOSE.
EVERYONE-- I IMPLORE YOU TO LISTEN! YOU ARE MAKING A TRAGIC MISTAKE!

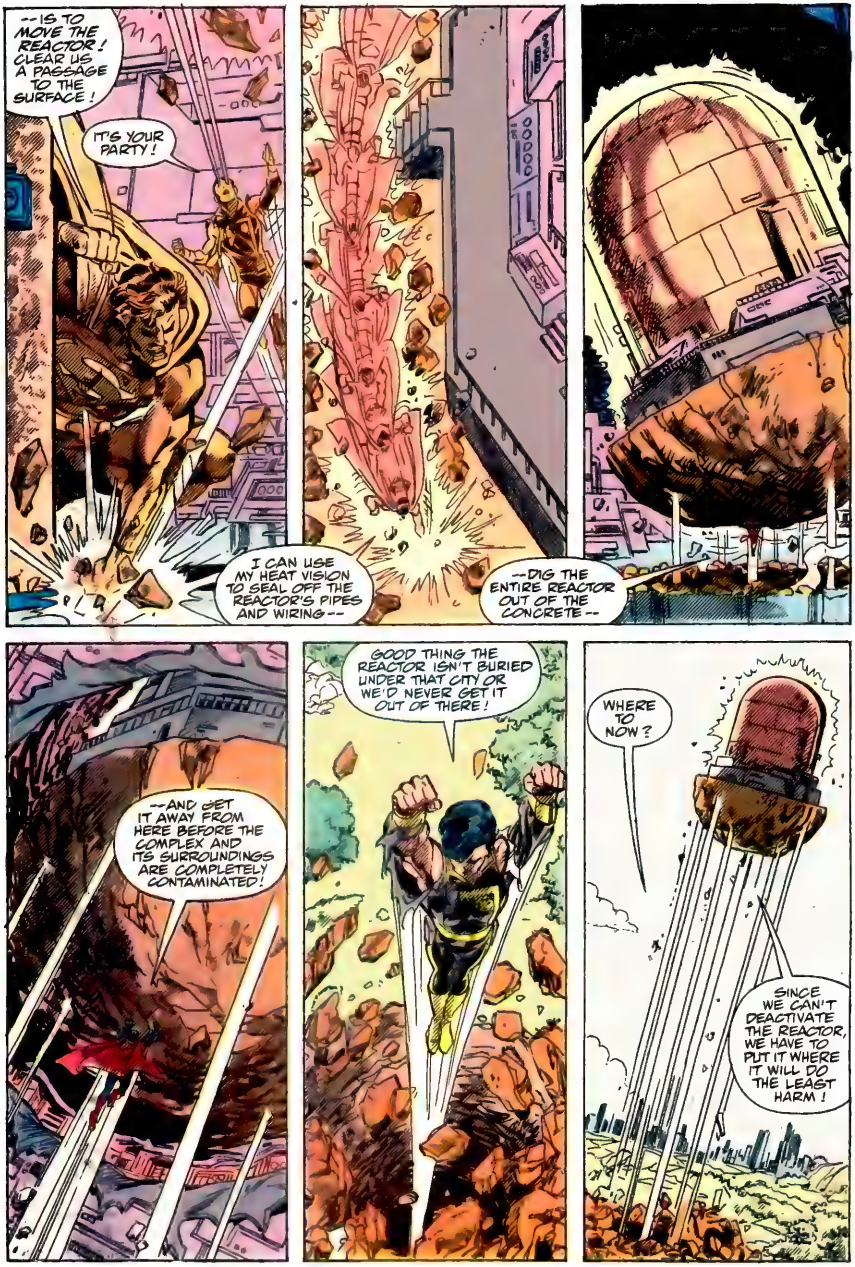
YOU BETTER BELIEVE THERE'S BEEN A MISTAKE--
--AND YOU MADE IT BY COMING BACK HERE, BRAINIAC!
KTANNG
NO--
:UHF!:
I'M GONNA ROCK YA--
--AND I'M GONNA SOCK YA--
--UNTIL THERE AIN'T ENOUGH LEFT OF YOU TO PUT IN A FONDUE POT!
MAYBE YOU AND I SHOULD STOP ARGUING, LOBO...! WE WORK BETTER AS A TEAM.
HEY, BUZZ OFF, YOU FRAGGIN' DAXAMITE! THIS MEAT IS MINE!
GENTLEMEN--
HEY, YOU'RE MESSIN' UP MY COIFFURE!
UH-OH...

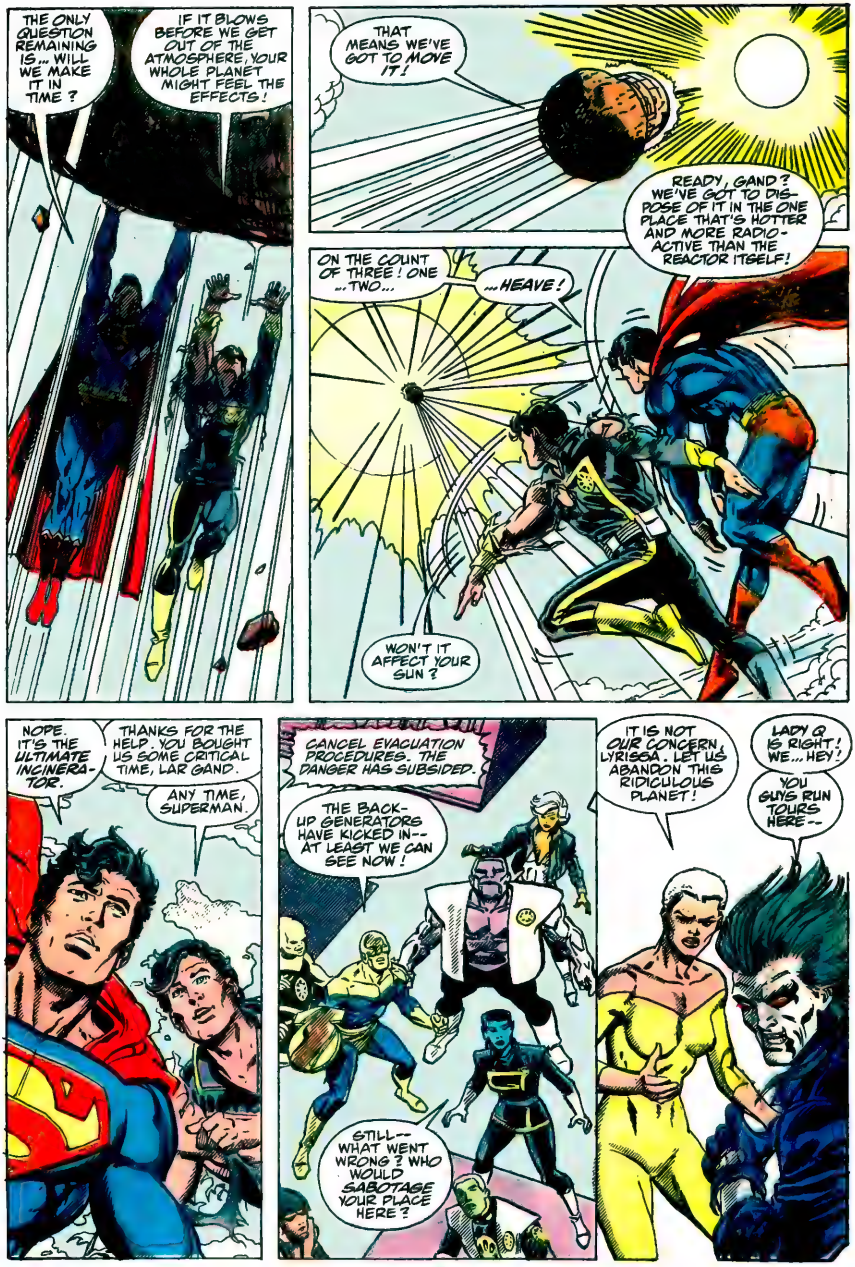
--I THINK IT'S TIME YOU TWO BUTT-HEADS SAID GOOD NIGHT!
...IN OTHER WORDS -- KNOCK IT OFF!
AND GIVE ME A GOOD EXPLANATION!
HEY--
--WHO TURNED OUT THE LIGHTS?
IF YOU DESIRE AN EXPLANATION, SUPERMAN--
--I WILL GLADLY SUPPLY IT.
SO START TALKING BEFORE I LOSE WHAT LITTLE PATIENCE I HAVE LEFT!
OH, DUBBILEX...
TIME TO WAKE UP.


GET UP, YOU SON OF A WORM. THERE IS WORK TO BE DONE!
Y-YESS...
THERE IS... WORK TO BE DONE...
YOU HAVE ENEMIES HERE, MY FRIEND. AND THOSE ENEMIES--
--MUST BE DEALT WITH.
YOU MUST ANNIHILATE YOUR ENEMIES, DUBBILEX. HAVE YOU A METHOD TO DO THIS?
PROJECT CADMUS... MUST BE DESTROYED...
INDEED IT MUST, MY FRIEND.
RESTRI
AREA
SIR? I'M AFRAID YOU NEED SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION TO BE HERE.
I HAVE...
...ALL THE AUTHORIZATION I NEED!
THUDD
INDEED YOU DO, DUBBILEX...
INDEED YOU DO.

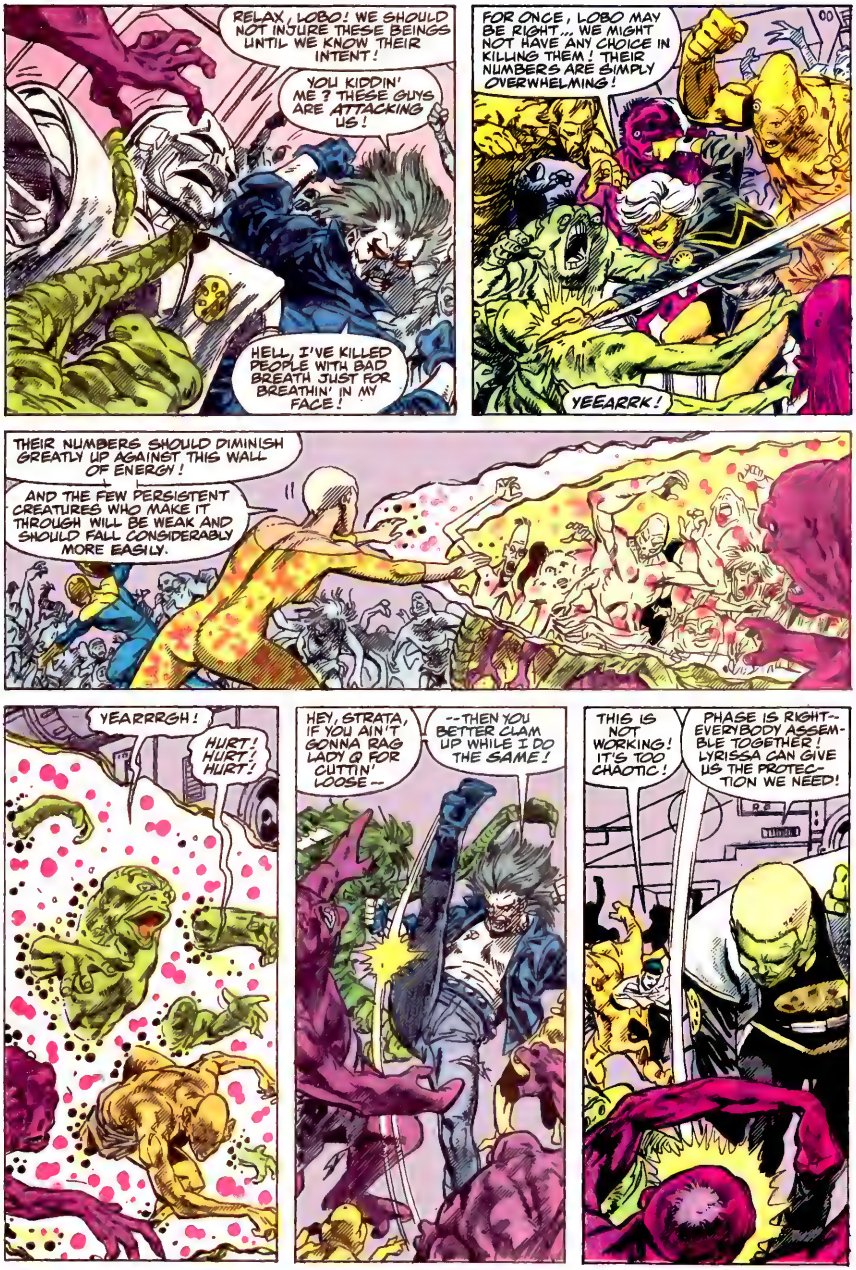

ALL THIS DESTRUCTION DUE TO A SIMPLE MIS-UNDERSTANDING?
NEXT TIME YOU GUYS WANT TO COME TO EARTH-- DON'T!
OUR APOLOGIES, SUPERMAN. IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN.
SOME OF THIS IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY, SUPERMAN!
IT WAS YOU PEOPLE WHO JUMPED TO THE WRONG CONCLUSION THAT I WAS BRAINIAC!
SINCE YOU NEVER INTRODUCED YOURSELF, WE HAD TO ASSUME SOMETHING. BESIDES--
--GOOD GUYS DON'T GO AROUND CAUSING AIRLINERS TO CRASH!
CODE 41-- EVACUATE ALL PERSONNEL! REPEAT--
MY GOD! OUR REACTOR IS MELTING DOWN!
COULD THE FIGHT HAVE SOMEHOW CAUSED IT?
DOESN'T MATTER WHAT STARTED IT! THE IMPORTANT THING IS STOPPING IT!
LOOKS LIKE YOU COULD USE SOME HELP!
PHASE, YOU CAN PROBABLY GET THERE FASTER THAN ANYONE!
HOW? I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE IT IS!
SAY... I GOT A BETTER IDEA... HOW 'BOUT WE TAKE OFF BEFORE THIS PLACE MAKES LIKE A GRILLED DREEN SANDWICH?

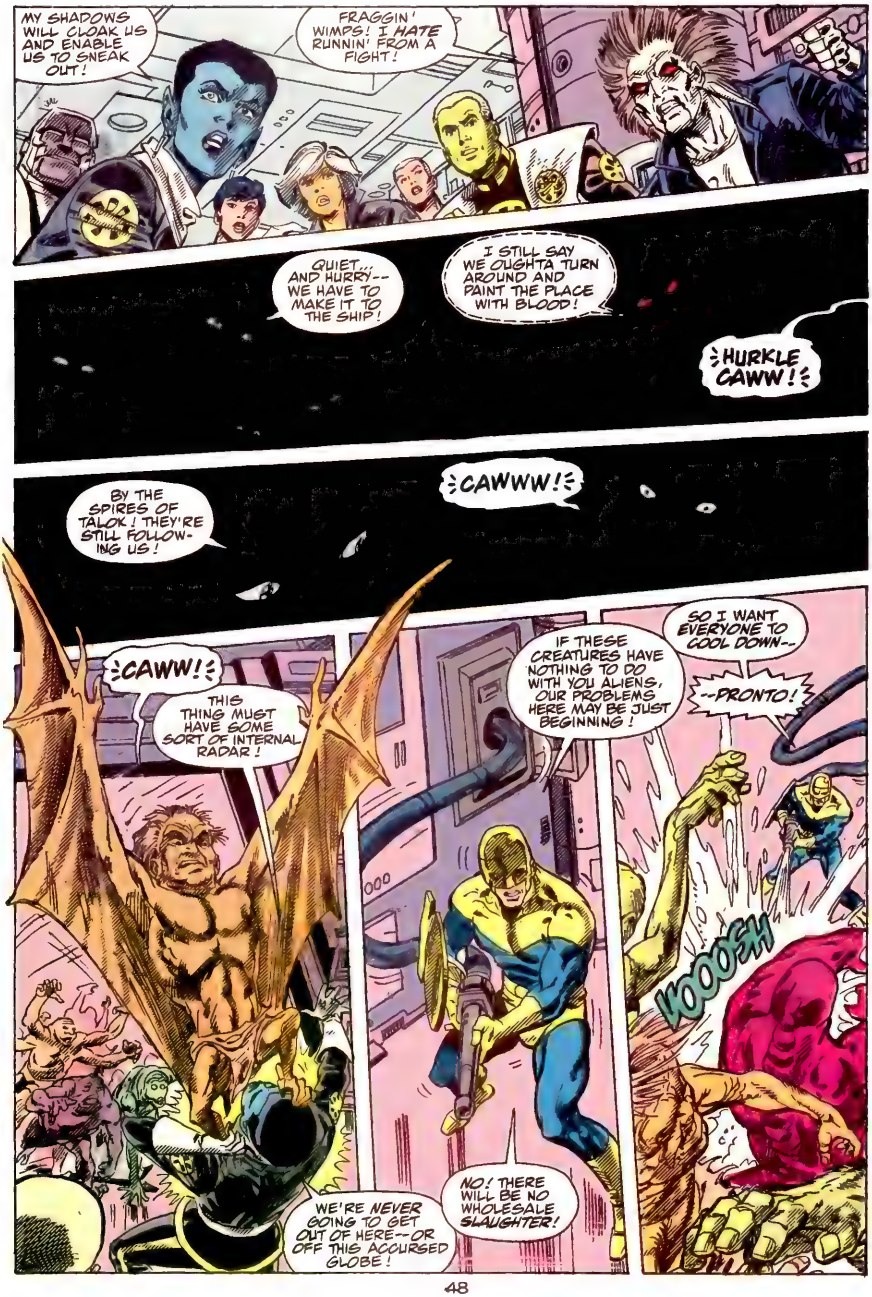
CONTINUE, DUBBILEX. YOUR TASK IS NOT YET COMPLETE.
YES. MORE... REMAINS...
RADIATION
NUCLEAR MELTDOWN IMMINENT. EVACUATE ALL PERSONNEL.
WHAT'S THE SITUATION HERE ?
SOMEONE'S SABOTAGED THE REACTOR ! EVERY BIT OF COOLANT HAS BEEN DRAINED !
DANGER
I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT YOUR TECHNOLOGY, BUT I KNOW BAD NEWS WHEN I HEAR IT !
YOU GOT THAT RIGHT--
--THIS IS CRITICAL !
DANGER
WITHOUT WATER TO COOL THE RADIOACTIVE RODS--
--THE REACTOR WILL CONTINUE HEATING TO CATASTROPHIC LEVELS !
SO, HOW DO WE PREVENT THAT ?
WE CAN'T ! THE RODS ARE SO HOT--SO FAR GONE--THAT OUR ONLY CHANCE--

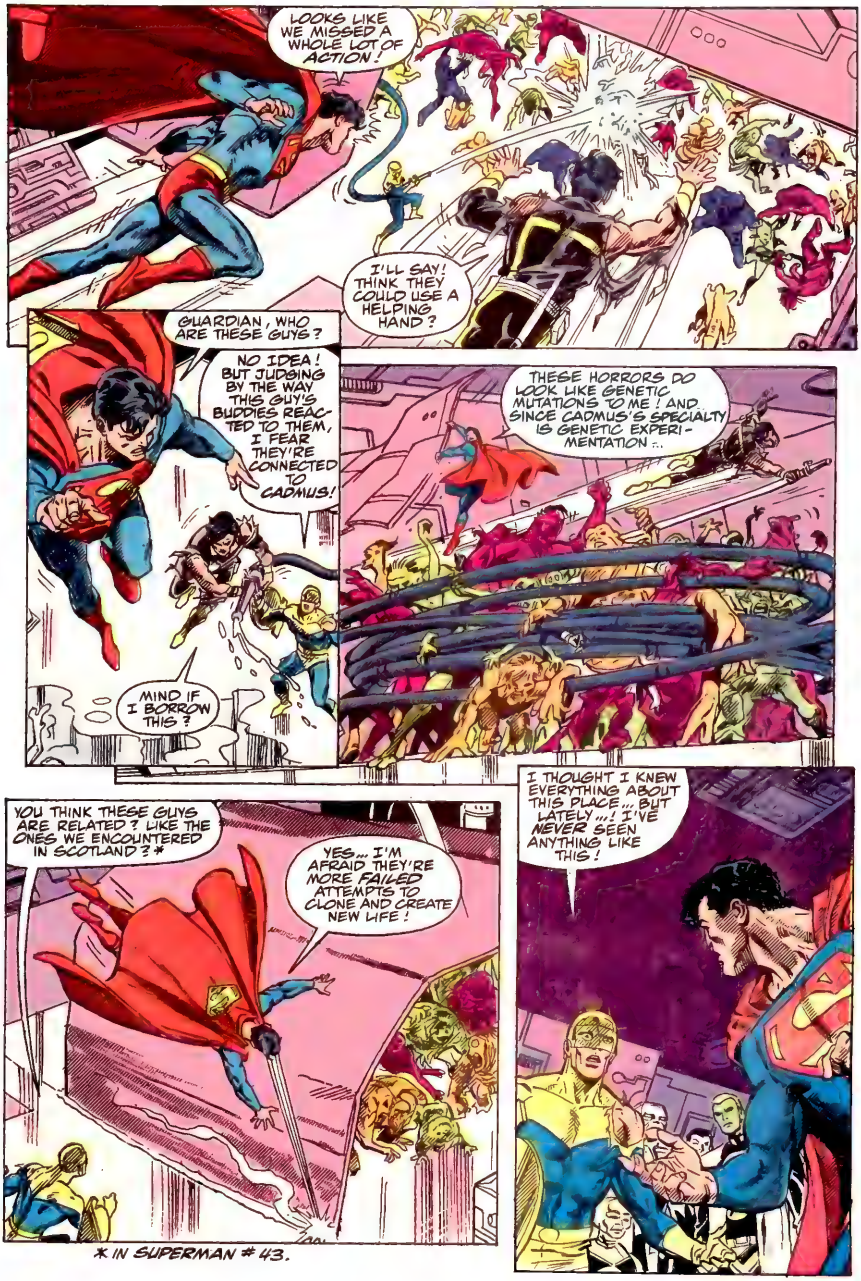

--IS TO MOVE THE REACTOR! CLEAR US A PASSAGE TO THE SURFACE!
IT'S YOUR PARTY!
I CAN USE MY HEAT VISION TO SEAL OFF THE REACTOR'S PIPES AND WIRING--
--DIG THE ENTIRE REACTOR OUT OF THE CONCRETE --
--AND GET IT AWAY FROM HERE BEFORE THE COMPLEX AND ITS SURROUNDINGS ARE COMPLETELY CONTAMINATED!
GOOD THING THE REACTOR ISN'T BURIED UNDER THAT CITY OR WE'D NEVER GET IT OUT OF THERE!
WHERE TO NOW?
SINCE WE CAN'T DEACTIVATE THE REACTOR, WE HAVE TO PUT IT WHERE IT WILL DO THE LEAST HARM!


THE ONLY QUESTION REMAINING IS... WILL WE MAKE IT IN TIME?
IF IT BLOWS BEFORE WE GET OUT OF THE ATMOSPHERE, YOUR WHOLE PLANET MIGHT FEEL THE EFFECTS!
THAT MEANS WE'VE GOT TO MOVE IT!
READY, GAND? WE'VE GOT TO DISPOSE OF IT IN THE ONE PLACE THAT'S HOTTER AND MORE RADIOACTIVE THAN THE REACTOR ITSELF!
ON THE COUNT OF THREE! ONE ...TWO...
...HEAVE!
WON'T IT AFFECT YOUR SUN?
NOPE. IT'S THE ULTIMATE INCINERATOR.
THANKS FOR THE HELP. YOU BOUGHT US SOME CRITICAL TIME, LAR GAND.
ANY TIME, SUPERMAN.
CANCEL EVACUATION PROCEDURES. THE DANGER HAS SUBSIDED.
THE BACK-UP GENERATORS HAVE KICKED IN-- AT LEAST WE CAN SEE NOW!
STILL-- WHAT WENT WRONG? WHO WOULD SABOTAGE YOUR PLACE HERE?
IT IS NOT OUR CONCERN, LYRISSA. LET US ABANDON THIS RIDICULOUS PLANET!
LADY Q IS RIGHT! WE... HEY!
YOU GUYS RUN TOURS HERE--

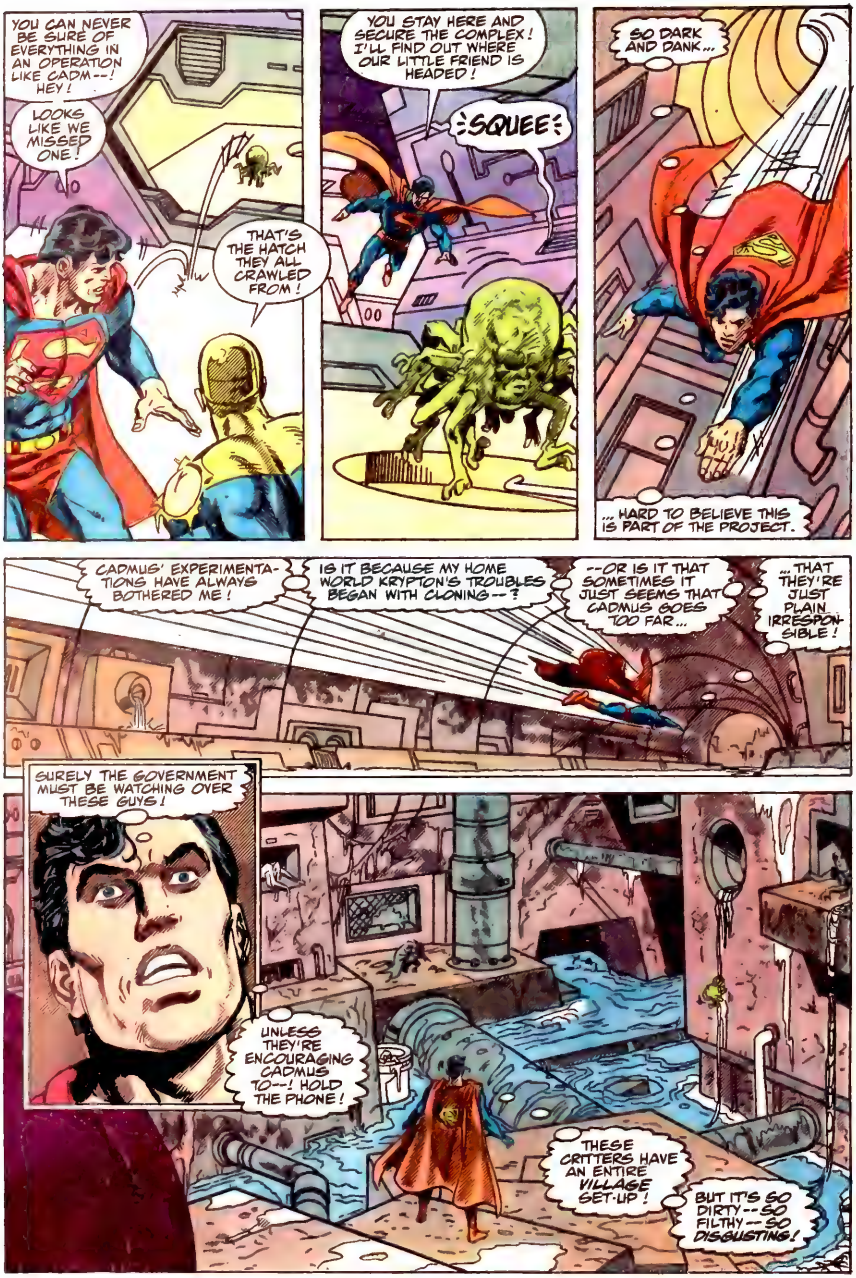
--OR IS THIS SOME KIND OF CRAZY FAMILY REUNION ?
HURKLLE HURRRK
GRRRGH GRUNT
THOSE THINGS ARE COMING FROM CADMUS'S LOWER LEVELS!
BUT THERE'S NOTHING DOWN THERE BUT ABANDONED CONSTRUCTION TUNNELS!
WHATEVER THEY ARE, THEY LOOK RATHER MAD!
NOTHING GETS BY YOU, DOES IT, DOX?
THIS IS THE LAST THING WE NEED!
FEETAL'S GIZZ, BABE, ARE YOU NUTS ?
THESE ARE JUST THE KIND OF MINDLESS WASTES I LOVE TO RIP INTO!

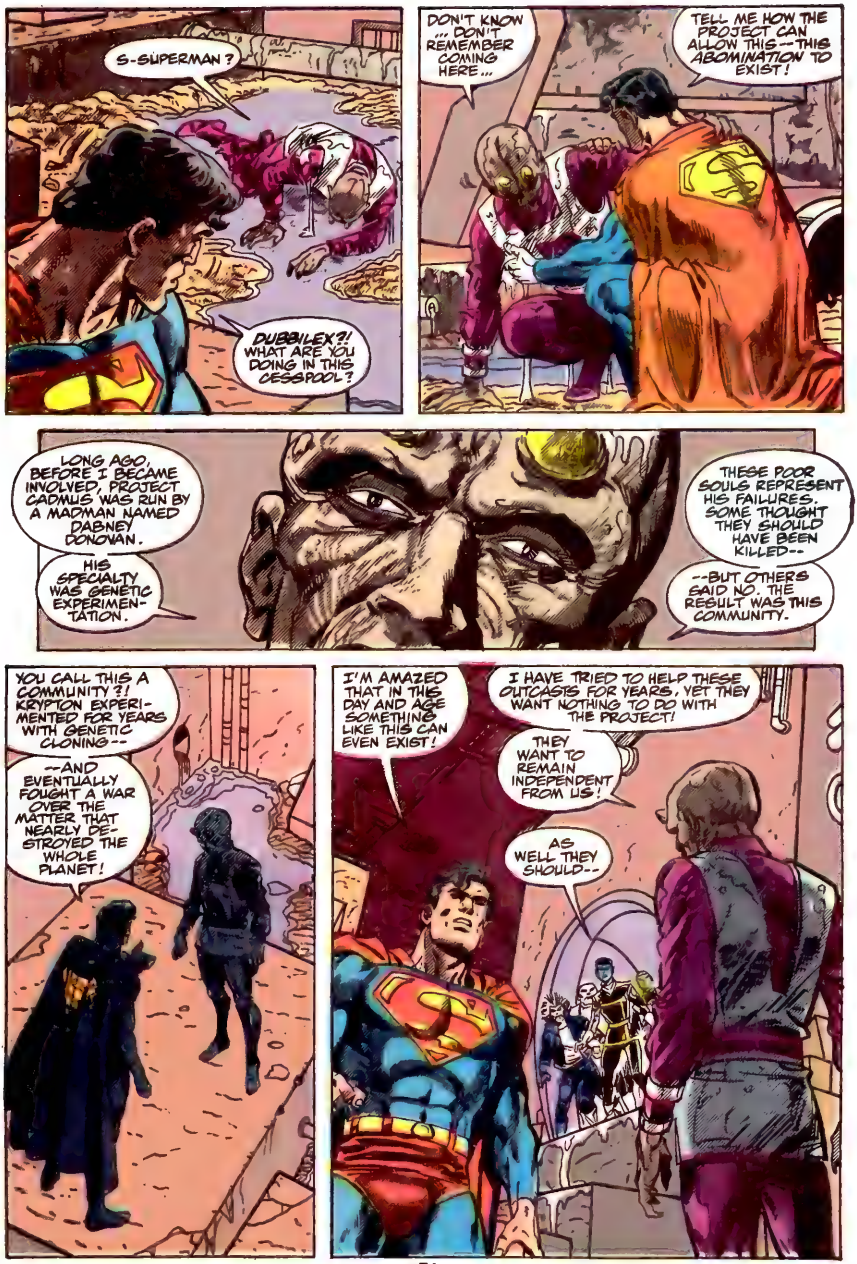

RELAX, LOBO! WE SHOULD NOT INJURE THESE BEINGS UNTIL WE KNOW THEIR INTENT!
YOU KIDDIN' ME? THESE GUYS ARE ATTACKING US!
HELL, I'VE KILLED PEOPLE WITH BAD BREATH JUST FOR BREATHIN' IN MY FACE!
FOR ONCE, LOBO MAY BE RIGHT... WE MIGHT NOT HAVE ANY CHOICE IN KILLING THEM! THEIR NUMBERS ARE SIMPLY OVERWHELMING!
YEEARRK!
THEIR NUMBERS SHOULD DIMINISH GREATLY UP AGAINST THIS WALL OF ENERGY!
AND THE FEW PERSISTENT CREATURES WHO MAKE IT THROUGH WILL BE WEAK AND SHOULD FALL CONSIDERABLY MORE EASILY.
YEARRRGH!
HURT! HURT! HURT!
HEY, STRATA, IF YOU AIN'T GONNA RAG LADY Q FOR CUTTIN' LOOSE--
--THEN YOU BETTER CLAM UP WHILE I DO THE SAME!
THIS IS NOT WORKING! IT'S TOO CHAOTIC!
PHASE IS RIGHT-- EVERYBODY ASSEMBLE TOGETHER! LYRISSA CAN GIVE US THE PROTECTION WE NEED!


MY SHADOWS WILL CLOAK US AND ENABLE US TO SNEAK OUT!
FRAGGIN' WIMPS! I HATE RUNNIN' FROM A FIGHT!
QUIET... AND HURRY-- WE HAVE TO MAKE IT TO THE SHIP!
I STILL SAY WE OUGHTA TURN AROUND AND PAINT THE PLACE WITH BLOOD!
:HURKLE CAWW!:
:CAWWW!:
BY THE SPIRES OF TALOK! THEY'RE STILL FOLLOWING US!
:CAWW!:
THIS THING MUST HAVE SOME SORT OF INTERNAL RADAR!
IF THESE CREATURES HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU ALIENS, OUR PROBLEMS HERE MAY BE JUST BEGINNING!
SO I WANT EVERYONE TO COOL DOWN--
--PRONTO!
KOOOSH
WE'RE NEVER GOING TO GET OUT OF HERE--OR OFF THIS ACCURSED GLOBE!
NO! THERE WILL BE NO WHOLESALE SLAUGHTER!


LOOKS LIKE WE MISSED A WHOLE LOT OF ACTION!
I'LL SAY! THINK THEY COULD USE A HELPING HAND?
GUARDIAN, WHO ARE THESE GUYS?
NO IDEA! BUT JUDGING BY THE WAY THIS GUY'S BUDDIES REACTED TO THEM, I FEAR THEY'RE CONNECTED TO CADMUS!
MIND IF I BORROW THIS?
THESE HORRORS DO LOOK LIKE GENETIC MUTATIONS TO ME! AND SINCE CADMUS'S SPECIALTY IS GENETIC EXPERIMENTATION...
YOU THINK THESE GUYS ARE RELATED? LIKE THE ONES WE ENCOUNTERED IN SCOTLAND?*
YES... I'M AFRAID THEY'RE MORE FAILED ATTEMPTS TO CLONE AND CREATE NEW LIFE!
I THOUGHT I KNEW EVERYTHING ABOUT THIS PLACE... BUT LATELY...! I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS!

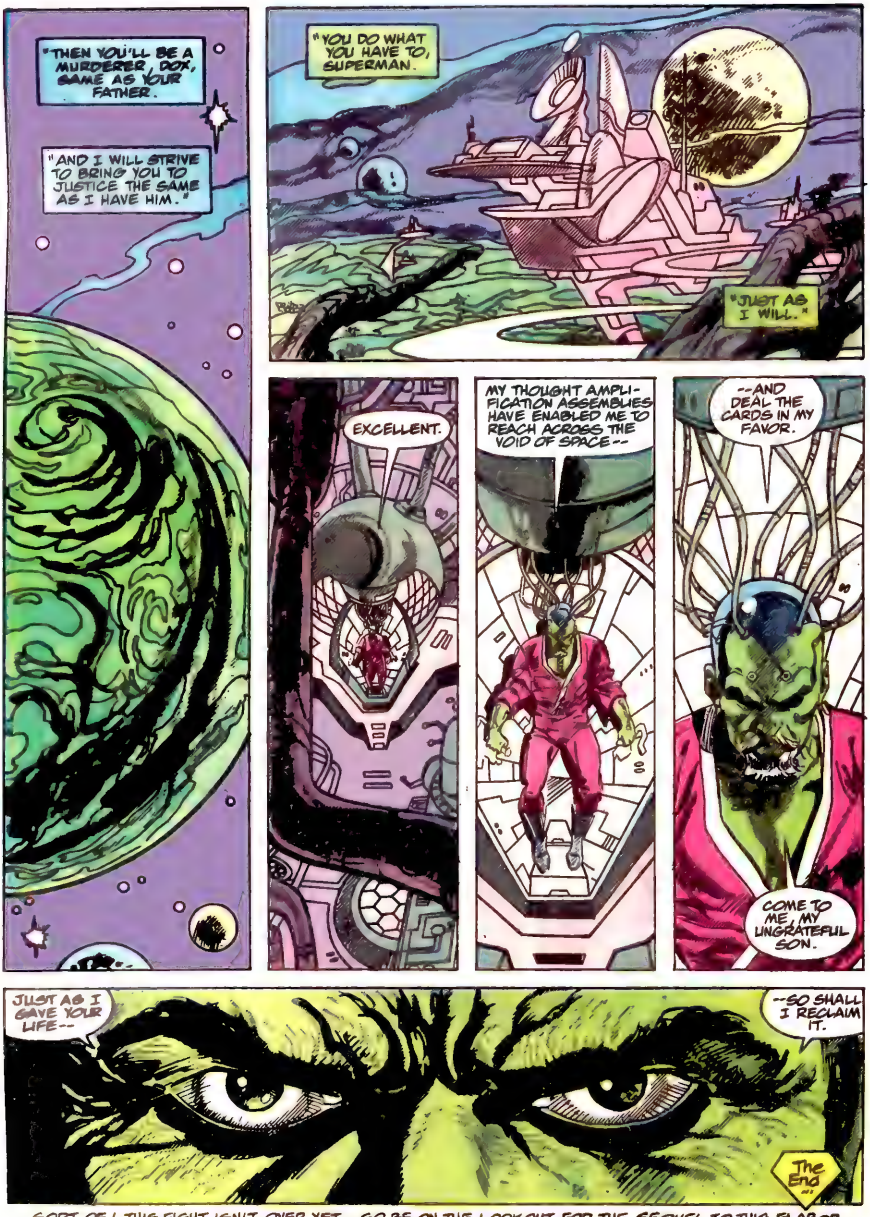
*IN SUPERMAN #43.


YOU CAN NEVER BE SURE OF EVERYTHING IN AN OPERATION LIKE CADM--! HEY!
LOOKS LIKE WE MISSED ONE!
THAT'S THE HATCH THEY ALL CRAWLED FROM!
YOU STAY HERE AND SECURE THE COMPLEX! I'LL FIND OUT WHERE OUR LITTLE FRIEND IS HEADED!
:SQUEE:
SO DARK AND DANK...
... HARD TO BELIEVE THIS IS PART OF THE PROJECT.
CADMUS' EXPERIMENTATIONS HAVE ALWAYS BOTHERED ME!
IS IT BECAUSE MY HOME WORLD KRYPTON'S TROUBLES BEGAN WITH CLONING--?
--OR IS IT THAT SOMETIMES IT JUST SEEMS THAT CADMUS GOES TOO FAR...
... THAT THEY'RE JUST PLAIN IRRESPONSIBLE!
SURELY THE GOVERNMENT MUST BE WATCHING OVER THESE GUYS!
UNLESS THEY'RE ENCOURAGING CADMUS TO--! HOLD THE PHONE!
THESE CRITTERS HAVE AN ENTIRE VILLAGE SET-UP!
BUT IT'S SO DIRTY--SO FILTHY--SO DISGUSTING!

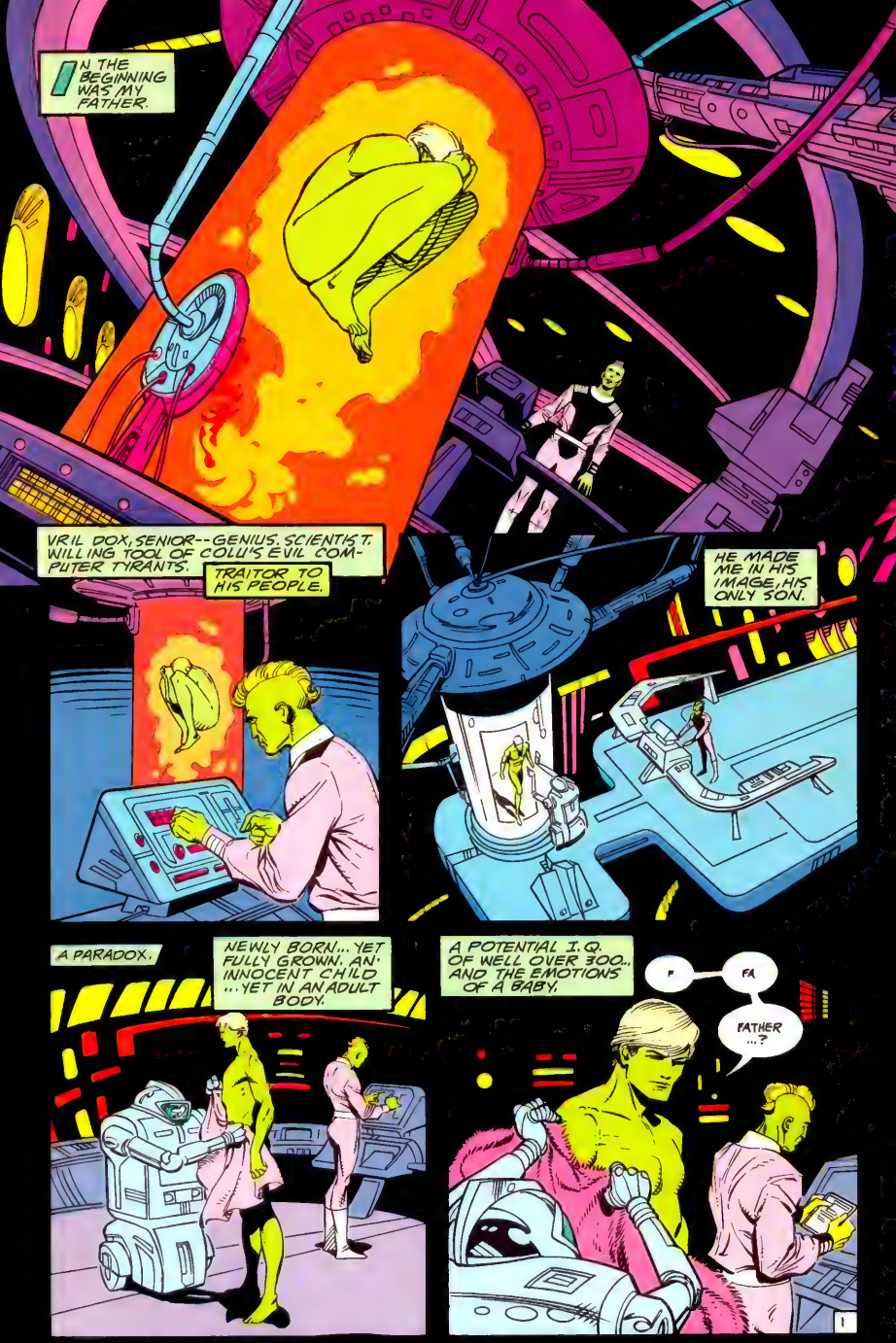

S-SUPERMAN?
DUBBILEX?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THIS CESSPOOL?
DON'T KNOW ... DON'T REMEMBER COMING HERE...
TELL ME HOW THE PROJECT CAN ALLOW THIS--THIS ABOMINATION TO EXIST!
LONG AGO, BEFORE I BECAME INVOLVED, PROJECT CADMUS WAS RUN BY A MADMAN NAMED DABNEY DONOVAN.
HIS SPECIALTY WAS GENETIC EXPERIMENTATION.
THESE POOR SOULS REPRESENT HIS FAILURES. SOME THOUGHT THEY SHOULD HAVE BEEN KILLED--
--BUT OTHERS SAID NO. THE RESULT WAS THIS COMMUNITY.
YOU CALL THIS A COMMUNITY?! KRYPTON EXPERIMENTED FOR YEARS WITH GENETIC CLONING--
--AND EVENTUALLY FOUGHT A WAR OVER THE MATTER THAT NEARLY DESTROYED THE WHOLE PLANET!
I'M AMAZED THAT IN THIS DAY AND AGE SOMETHING LIKE THIS CAN EVEN EXIST!
I HAVE TRIED TO HELP THESE OUTCASTS FOR YEARS, YET THEY WANT NOTHING TO DO WITH THE PROJECT!
THEY WANT TO REMAIN INDEPENDENT FROM US!
AS WELL THEY SHOULD--

...BUT MUST IT BE A SLUM?
SURELY YOU CAN PROVIDE THEM BETTER!
I'VE TRIED! BUT THEY WILL ACCEPT NOTHING FROM US!
THEY RESENT YOU FOR CREATING THEIR PREDICAMENT IN THE FIRST PLACE!
PERHAPS THEY EVEN RESENT BEING INSTILLED WITH THE REASON TO UNDERSTAND THE HELL THEY ENDURE--WITHIN AND WITHOUT!
EXACTLY! YOUR CONSTANT TOLERANCE ALLOWS A MAN LIKE MY FATHER AND A PLACE LIKE COLU TO EXIST!
I NEVER EVEN HEARD OF COLU UNTIL THE INVASION!
NOW YOU SEE WHY L.E.G.I.O.N. WAS CREATED. SOCIETAL INJUSTICES SUCH AS THIS MUST BE CORRECTED!
EVEN IF IT TAKES SETTING YOURSELF UP AS JUDGE, JURY AND EXECUTIONER IN THE PROCESS?
NO WONDER YOU COULD KILL YOUR OWN FATHER.
YOU SHOULD HAVE!
LEAVE THIS PLANET ONCE IN A WHILE AND USE YOUR POWERS WHERE THEY CAN DO SOME GOOD!
I HAVE MY LIMITATIONS! BESIDES... I'M NEEDED HERE! AS YOU FEEL YOU ARE NEEDED THERE!
THIS HOLIER-THAN-THOU STUFF IS GONNA MAKE ME BARF!

TAKE THESE OUTCASTS HERE. NOW THAT I KNOW ABOUT THEM, I CAN DO MY BEST TO SEE THAT THEY'RE TREATED PROPERLY!
WE BOTH WILL. THIS IS INTOLERABLE!
STILL... I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT PROMPTED YOU TO RELEASE THESE ABOMINATIONS IN THE FIRST PLACE!
I DO NOT KNOW. I--
HE WAS MINE, FOOLS! DUBBILEX RELEASED THEM AND SABOTAGED YOUR REACTOR--
--BECAUSE I FORCED HIM TO!
THAT VOICE SOUNDS LIKE--
IF YOU TRULY WANT TO FIND ME, MY INSOLENT SON, THEN YOU NEED LOOK NO FURTHER THAN COLU!
IT'S MY FATHER! IT'S BRAINIAC!
HE HAS TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF OUR PRESENCE ON EARTH!
LET'S GO! WE MAY ALREADY BE TOO LATE!
YOU STILL INTEND TO KILL HIM?
YES.


"THEN YOU'LL BE A MURDERER, DOX, SAME AS YOUR FATHER.
"AND I WILL STRIVE TO BRING YOU TO JUSTICE THE SAME AS I HAVE HIM."
"YOU DO WHAT YOU HAVE TO, SUPERMAN.
"JUST AS I WILL."
EXCELLENT.
MY THOUGHT AMPLIFICATION ASSEMBLIES HAVE ENABLED ME TO REACH ACROSS THE VOID OF SPACE--
--AND DEAL THE CARDS IN MY FAVOR.
COME TO ME, MY UNGRATEFUL SON.
JUST AS I GAVE YOUR LIFE--
--SO SHALL I RECLAIM IT.
The End

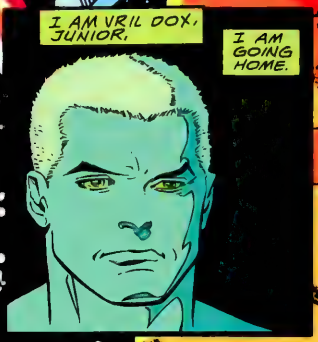
...SORT OF! THIS FIGHT ISN'T OVER YET... SO BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR THE *SEQUEL* TO THIS ELABORATE GENERATION STRUGGLE IN *L.E.G.I.O.N. '90 ANNUAL #1*, ON SALE NEXT WEEK! OH, AND OF COURSE IT GUEST-STARS *SUPERMAN!*


IN THE BEGINNING WAS MY FATHER.
VRIL DOX, SENIOR--GENIUS. SCIENTIST. WILLING TOOL OF COLU'S EVIL COMPUTER TYRANTS.
TRAITOR TO HIS PEOPLE.
HE MADE ME IN HIS IMAGE, HIS ONLY SON.
A PARADOX.
NEWLY BORN... YET FULLY GROWN. AN INNOCENT CHILD ...YET IN AN ADULT BODY.
A POTENTIAL I.Q. OF WELL OVER 300., AND THE EMOTIONS OF A BABY.
FA
FATHER ...?

AND MY CREATOR WAS A CRUEL GOD.
YOU ARE A TRAVESTY! A GLORIOUS EXPERIMENT THAT ENDED IN PATHETIC FAILURE! A USELESS NOTHING ON THE FACE OF THE UNIVERSE!
YOU ARE A FOOL--A MORON --AN IMBECILE! YOU ARE NO SON OF MINE!
NO! DON'T SAY THAT!
NO SON OF MINE!
NO SON OF MINE!
NOOOOOOOOOO
2

CHILDHOOD'S END

CHAPTER one — Bad Blood



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Letters—JOHN WORKMAN Editor—MIGHTY ART YOUNG

SUPERMAN Created By JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

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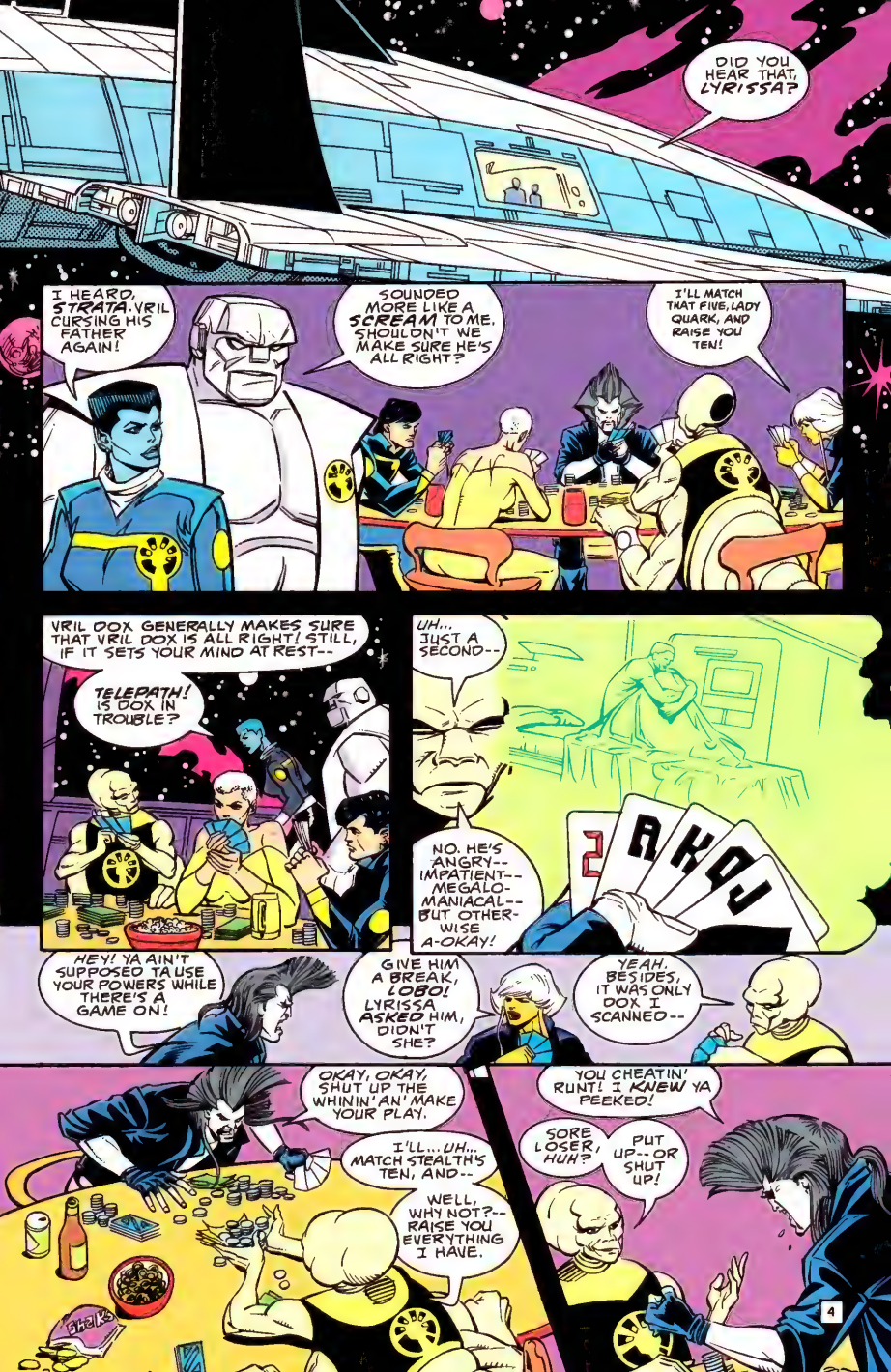
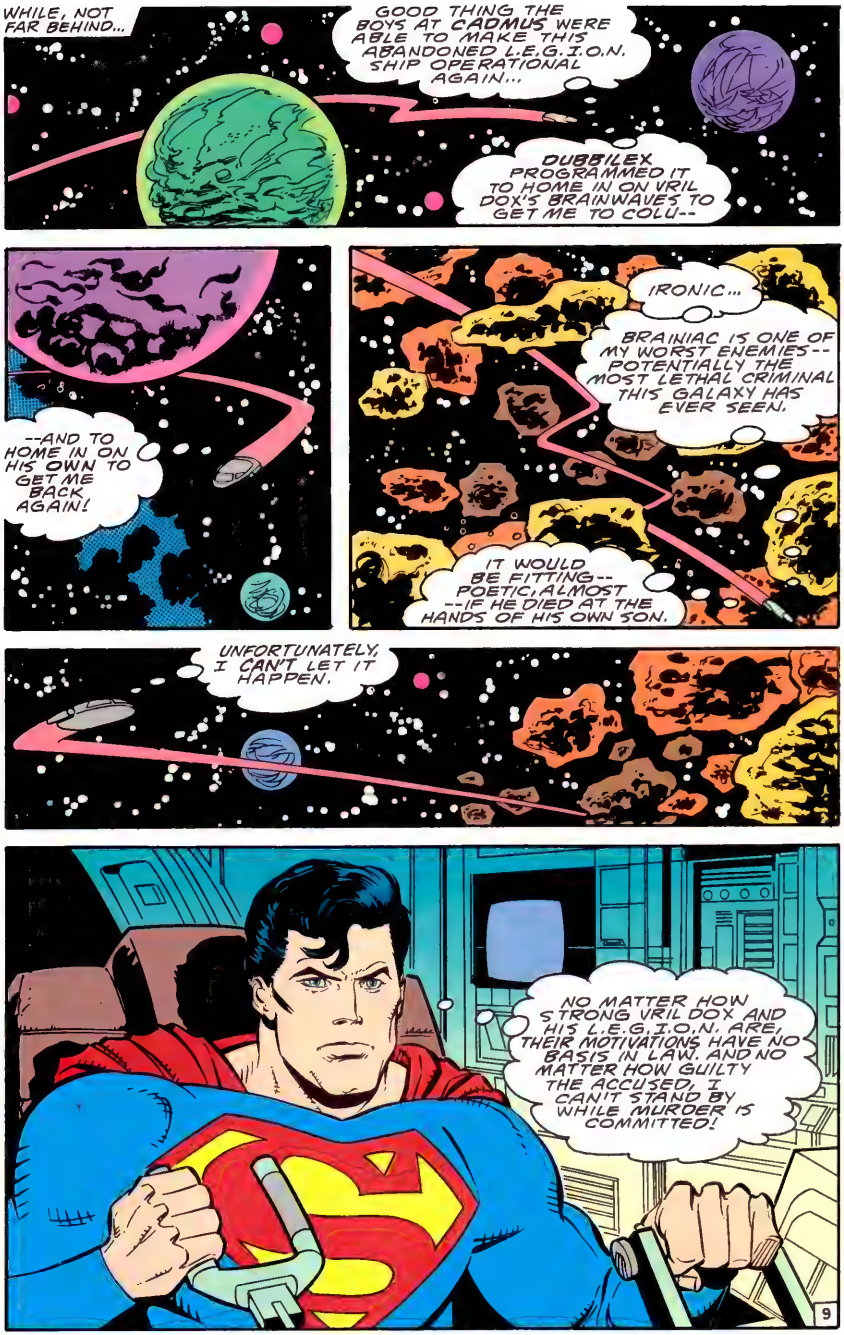

DID YOU HEAR THAT, LYRISSA?
I HEARD, STRATA. VRIL CURSING HIS FATHER AGAIN!
SOUNDED MORE LIKE A SCREAM TO ME. SHOULDN'T WE MAKE SURE HE'S ALL RIGHT?
I'LL MATCH THAT FIVE, LADY QUARK, AND RAISE YOU TEN!
VRIL DOX GENERALLY MAKES SURE THAT VRIL DOX IS ALL RIGHT! STILL, IF IT SETS YOUR MIND AT REST--
TELEPATH! IS DOX IN TROUBLE?
UH... JUST A SECOND--
NO. HE'S ANGRY-- IMPATIENT-- MEGALO-MANIACAL-- BUT OTHER-WISE A-OKAY!
HEY! YA AIN'T SUPPOSED TA USE YOUR POWERS WHILE THERE'S A GAME ON!
GIVE HIM A BREAK, LOBO! LYRISSA ASKED HIM, DIDN'T SHE?
YEAH. BESIDES, IT WAS ONLY DOX I SCANNED--
OKAY, OKAY, SHUT UP THE WHININ' AN' MAKE YOUR PLAY.
I'LL... UH... MATCH STEALTH'S TEN, AND--
WELL, WHY NOT?-- RAISE YOU EVERYTHING I HAVE.
YOU CHEATIN' RUNT! I KNEW YA PEEKED!
SORE LOSER, HUH?
PUT UP-- OR SHUT UP!
SHAZAM
4

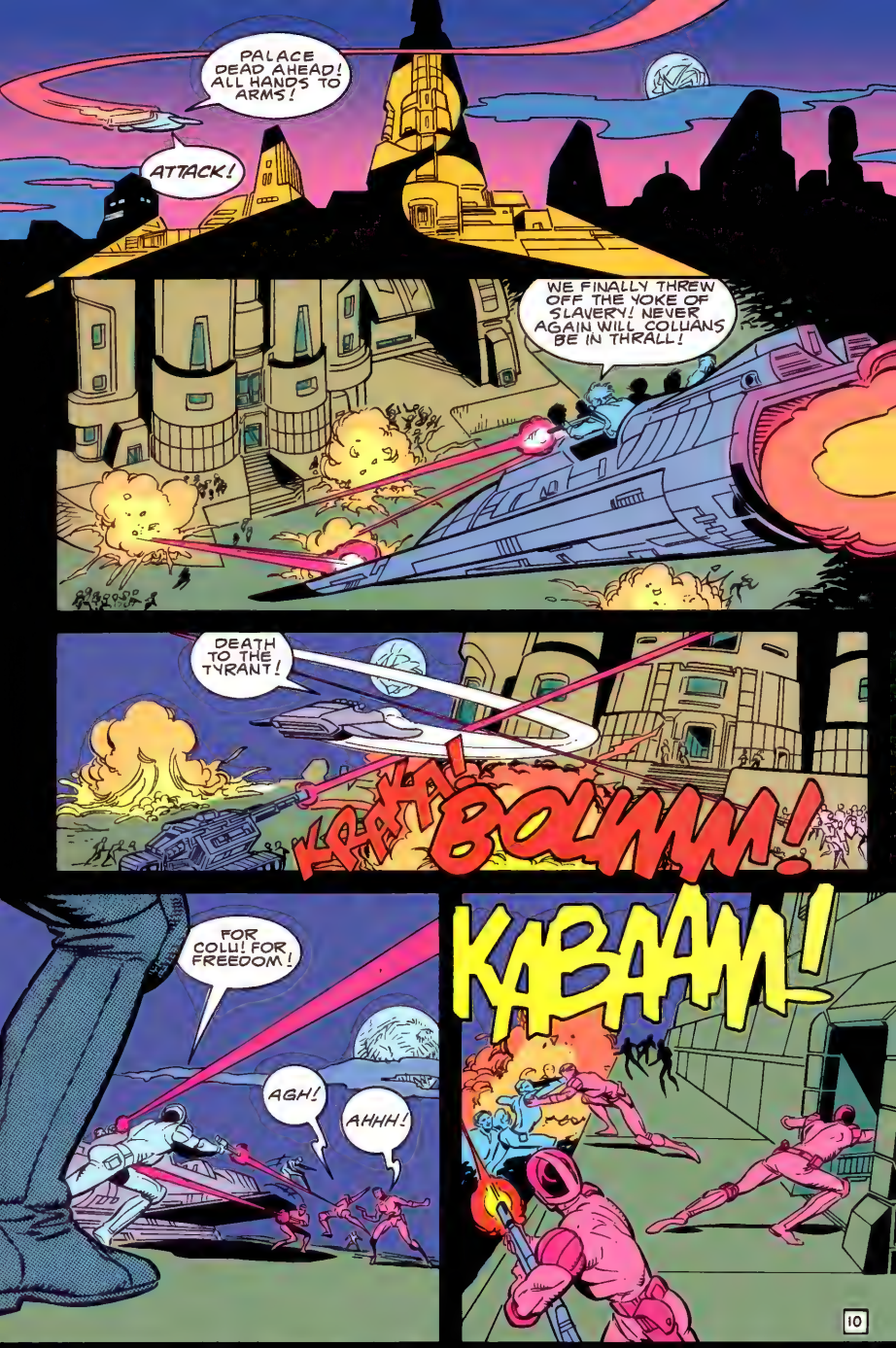
NOBODY TELLS ME TA PUT UP OR SHUT UP, SLEAZE-FRAGGER!
HEYYY--!
GLURKK!
'S WRONG, CREEP-- YOUR MIND NOT WARN YA I'M GONNA RAM YOUR FACE DOWN YOUR GULLET?
LOBO! LEAVE HIM! THIS IS STUPID--
WHATDIDYOUSAY?
STUPID? STUPID? LISSEN, GEEK --WHEN I WANT YOUR OPINION, I'LL BEAT IT OUT OF YOU!
5

GET IT?
BY THE SHADOWS --!
BE CAREFUL-- OOWW!
LOBO, THAT IS ENOUGH! IT WAS ONLY A GAME, FOR GOD'S SAKE!
OH, LEAVE THEM TO IT, LYRISSA. A LITTLE FIGHTING NEVER HURT ANYONE!
NO? WE ALL EMERGED UNSCATHED FROM OUR VISIT TO EARTH, DID WE? OUR BATTLE WITH SUPERMAN DID NO HARM?*
IF YOU TRULY BELIEVE THAT, YOU'RE MORE OF A BLOOD-THIRSTY ELITIST THAN I TOOK YOU FOR!
*SEE ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN ANNUAL #2--ART.
WHY, YOU INSUFFERABLE PRIG! I'LL TEACH YOU THE MEANING OF BLOOD-THIRSTY!
LET ME GO! OR BY ALL THAT'S HOLY--

WHEN YOU CHILDREN ARE QUITE FINISHED--!
ACCORDING TO THE AUTO-PILOT, WE REACH COLU IN EXACTLY ONE HOUR. READY YOURSELVES!
AND CLEAN THIS MESS UP!
LOBO--MY OFFICE! NOW!
HEH HEH HEH! I FORESEE DEEP TROUBLE FOR YOU, LOBO!
YOU WAIT, CREEP! YA WON'T BE SEEIN' NOTHIN' AFTER I GOUGE OUT YER EYES AN' EAT 'EM!
SHEESH! THAT GUY IS BURNING ON ONE SHORT FUSE!
AS ARE WE ALL, TELE-PATH.
LYRISSA, I WOULD LIKE TO APOLO-GIZE...
AS YOU HAVE TRIED TO TEACH ME--WE ARE A TEAM. OUR TEN-SIONS AND PETTY SQUABBLES MUST BE WORKED OUT--NOT TURNED AGAINST EACH OTHER. I'M SORRY.
THE FAULT IS VRIL DOX'S, NOT YOURS, LADY QUARK.
HE IS INFLAMED WITH THIS CRAZY DESIRE FOR REVENGE ON HIS FATHER!
BE FAIR, LYRISSA! HIS DAD--THIS SO-CALLED BRAINIAC--
--IS A MURDERING CRIMINAL BY ANY STANDARD.
IT'S JUSTICE WE'RE GOING TO GIVE HIM --NOT REVENGE!
7

HMMM. I WONDER IF DOX DRAWS THAT FINE LINE BETWEEN THEM.
I HAD HOPED HE MIGHT RECONSIDER AFTER THAT FIASCO ON EARTH --AFTER ALL, COLD LOGIC IS SUPPOSED TO BE HIS STRONG SUIT.
BUT HE'S LIKE A VOLCANO, JUST WAITING TO ERUPT!
ISN'T THERE ANYTHING WE CAN DO TO MAKE HIM SEE SENSE?
SUCH AS WHAT, STRATA? PHYSICALLY RESTRAIN HIM? WHO COULD I COUNT ON FOR AID?
LOBO? I THINK NOT, THOUGH HE HATES DOX, HE IS SWORN TO SERVE HIM--
--AND LOBO KEEPS HIS WORD.
LAR GAND? YOU OWE DOX YOUR LIFE. IF IT WERE NOT FOR HIS ANTI-LEAD SERUM, YOU MIGHT HAVE PERISHED LONG SINCE!
TELEPATH? BY RIGHTS, YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN EXECUTED FOR YOUR CRIMES. ANOTHER WHO OWES HIS LIFE TO WILY VRIL DOX!
LADY QUARK, STEALTH, OR EVEN YOU, STRATA--WE'RE BASICALLY MISFITS WHO HAVE FOUND A HOME IN DOX'S L.E.G.I.O.N.
WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO FIGHT AGAINST HIM?
COULD YOU?
NO, AND I WOULD NOT ASK IT OF YOU.
WE CAN ONLY TRY TO SEE THIS THROUGH... AND ENSURE THAT WHATEVER HAPPENS, IT IS JUSTICE --NOT HATRED-- THAT PREVAILS!
SO, GUYS...
ANYBODY WANT A LAST GAME BEFORE WE HIT COLU?
COULD BE YOUR LAST CHANCE... EVER!

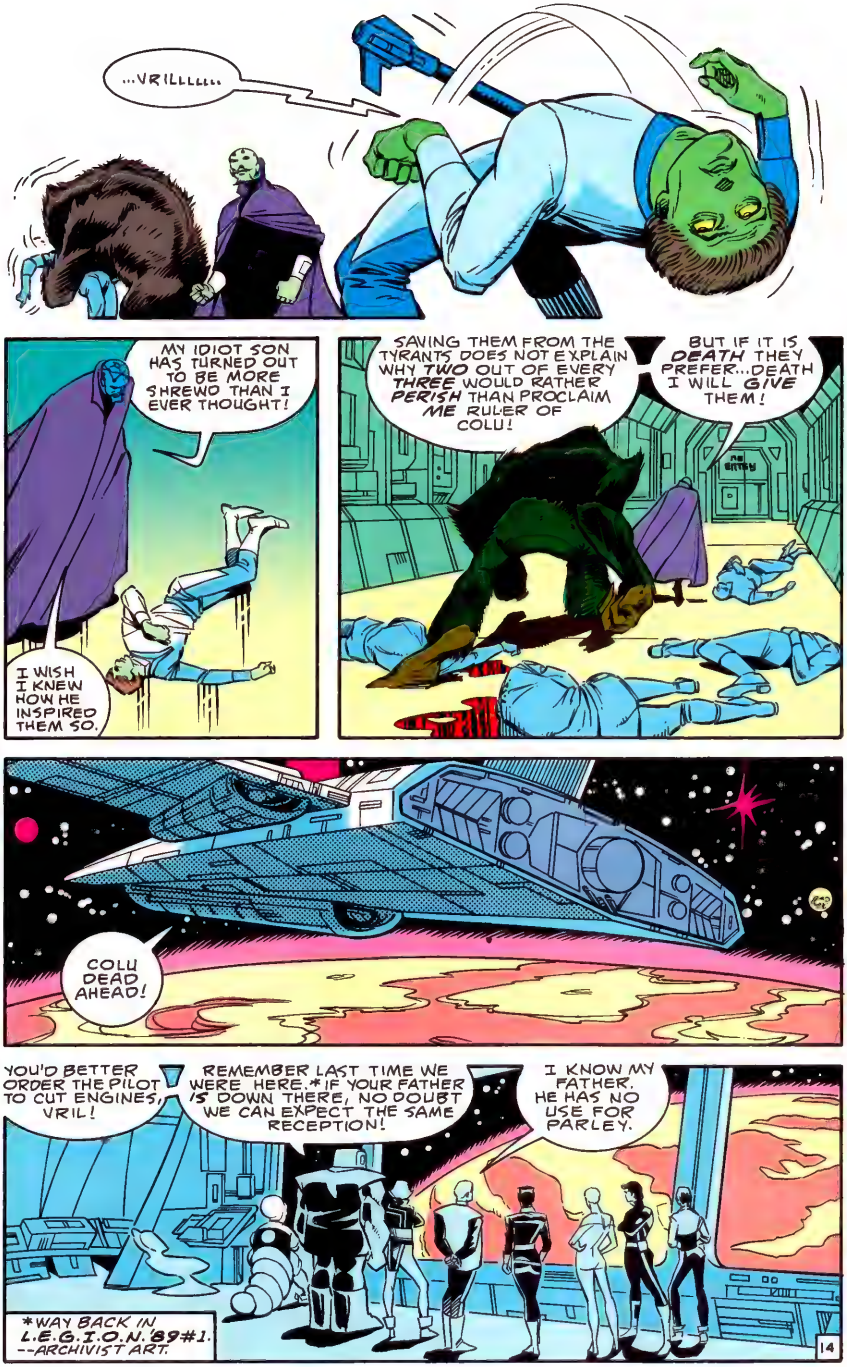

WHILE, NOT FAR BEHIND...
GOOD THING THE BOYS AT CADMUS WERE ABLE TO MAKE THIS ABANDONED L.E.G.I.O.N. SHIP OPERATIONAL AGAIN...
DUBBILEX PROGRAMMED IT TO HOME IN ON VRIL DOX'S BRAINWAVES TO GET ME TO COLU--
--AND TO HOME IN ON HIS OWN TO GET ME BACK AGAIN!
IRONIC...
BRAINIAC IS ONE OF MY WORST ENEMIES--POTENTIALLY THE MOST LETHAL CRIMINAL THIS GALAXY HAS EVER SEEN.
IT WOULD BE FITTING--POETIC, ALMOST--IF HE DIED AT THE HANDS OF HIS OWN SON.
UNFORTUNATELY, I CAN'T LET IT HAPPEN.
NO MATTER HOW STRONG VRIL DOX AND HIS L.E.G.I.O.N. ARE, THEIR MOTIVATIONS HAVE NO BASIS IN LAW. AND NO MATTER HOW GUILTY THE ACCUSED, I CAN'T STAND BY WHILE MURDER IS COMMITTED!


PALACE DEAD AHEAD! ALL HANDS TO ARMS!
ATTACK!
WE FINALLY THREW OFF THE YOKE OF SLAVERY! NEVER AGAIN WILL COLUANS BE IN THRALL!
DEATH TO THE TYRANT!
KRAK!
BOUMMM!
FOR COLU! FOR FREEDOM!
AGH!
AHHH!
KABAAM!

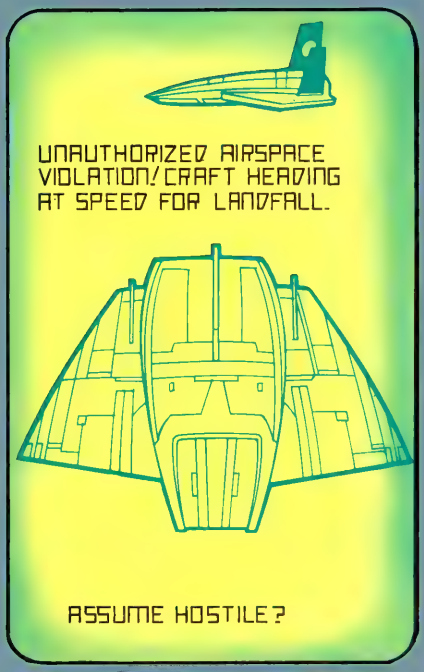
SIRE! SIRE!
NO ENTRY
SIRE! REBEL ATTACK ON THE NORTH ENTRY!
TELL ME, SOLDIER-- ARE YOU AWARE OF MY INSTRUC-TIONS ON PRIVACY?
B-BUT MIGHTY ONE--IT IS URGENT! THE REBELS OVER-WHELM US!
EXCELLENT.
THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO TEST MY NEW... SOLDIER, WOULDN'T YOU SAY?

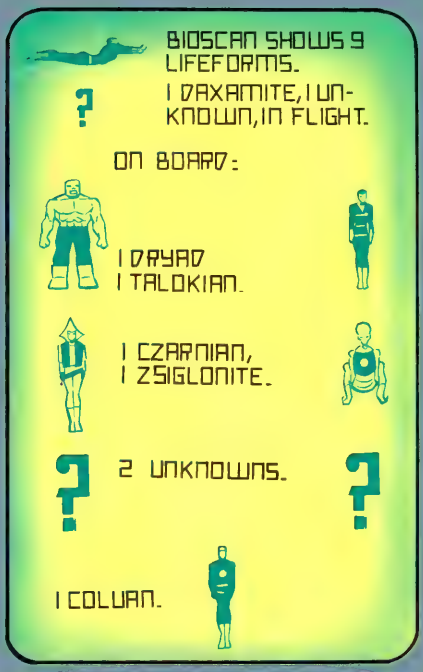
YOU'D NEVER GUESS THAT ONLY A FEW SHORT WEEKS AGO, HE WAS JUST LIKE YOU, EH?
THE WONDERS OF ADVANCED BIO-MUTATIONAL CONTROL...!
A-A-AMAZING, SIRE! OUR--OUR ENEMIES WILL F-FALL LIKE CHAFF BEFORE HIM!
INDEED!
AND AS FOR YOU--
DO NOT INTERRUPT ME AGAIN!
THERE! THE TYRANT HIM-SELF!
SHOOT TO KILL!
OUR BULLETS HAVE NO EFFECT!
IN THE NAME OF THE SAVIOR! WH-WHAT IS THAT?
12

ARGH!
AAAGH!
TRAITOR! YOU'RE NO BETTER THAN THE COMPUTER TYRANTS YOU USED TO SERVE! DIE--!
NO!
WHAT...? I...CAN'T...
YOU CAN DO NOTHING --UNLESS I WILL IT!
THE COMPUTER TYRANTS ARE GONE. I RULE COLU NOW. SALUTE YOUR NEW MASTER!
N-NO! NEVER! YOU ARE... A...TRAITOR! YOUNG VRIL... IS OUR MAS--
DO IT! MAKE OBEISANCE TO ME!
N-NOOO! YOUNG VRIL...
13

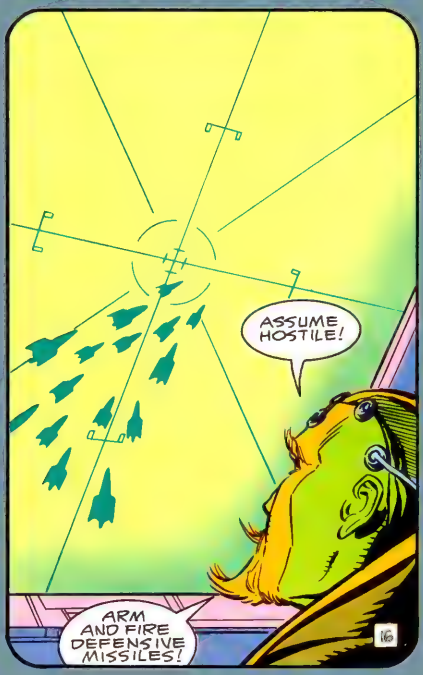

...VRILLLLLL...
MY IDIOT SON HAS TURNED OUT TO BE MORE SHREWD THAN I EVER THOUGHT!
I WISH I KNEW HOW HE INSPIRED THEM SO.
SAVING THEM FROM THE TYRANTS DOES NOT EXPLAIN WHY TWO OUT OF EVERY THREE WOULD RATHER PERISH THAN PROCLAIM ME RULER OF COLU!
BUT IF IT IS DEATH THEY PREFER...DEATH I WILL GIVE THEM!
COLU DEAD AHEAD!
YOU'D BETTER ORDER THE PILOT TO CUT ENGINES, VRIL!
REMEMBER LAST TIME WE WERE HERE.* IF YOUR FATHER IS DOWN THERE, NO DOUBT WE CAN EXPECT THE SAME RECEPTION!
I KNOW MY FATHER. HE HAS NO USE FOR PARLEY.
*WAY BACK IN L.E.G.I.O.N.'89#1. --ARCHIVIST ART.

LAR GAND--YOU AND LADY QUARK RIDE SHOTGUN OUTSIDE. DEAL WITH ANY AERIAL ATTACK.
WHAT LEVEL OF VIOLENCE IS PERMITTED?
"USE YOUR DISCRETION. KILL IF YOU DEEM IT NECESSARY!"
I BEG YOU, VRIL--RECONSIDER! YOUR FATHER MAY WELL DESERVE THE FATE YOU PLAN...BUT SURELY NO OTHER COLUAN DOES!
THINK OF WHAT WE WENT THROUGH TO FREE THEM IN THE FIRST PLACE!
WITHOUT THE COMPUTER TYRANTS GUIDING THEM, THEY MUST HAVE BEEN PUTTY IN YOUR FATHER'S HANDS. YOU CAN'T PUNISH THEM FOR THAT!
WITH ANY LUCK, WE WON'T HAVE TO.
THEY SHOULD HAVE REMAINED...LOYAL.
BUT ANY WHO SIDES WITH A TRAITOR IS A TRAITOR HIMSELF--AND WILL GET A TRAITOR'S REWARD!
CAN'T SAY I'M EXACTLY LOOKIN' FORWARD TO THIS! IF BRAINIAC'S EVEN HALF AS BAD AS HE'S PAINTED, WE'RE IN FOR A ROUGH RIDE!
YEAH. YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN!
15

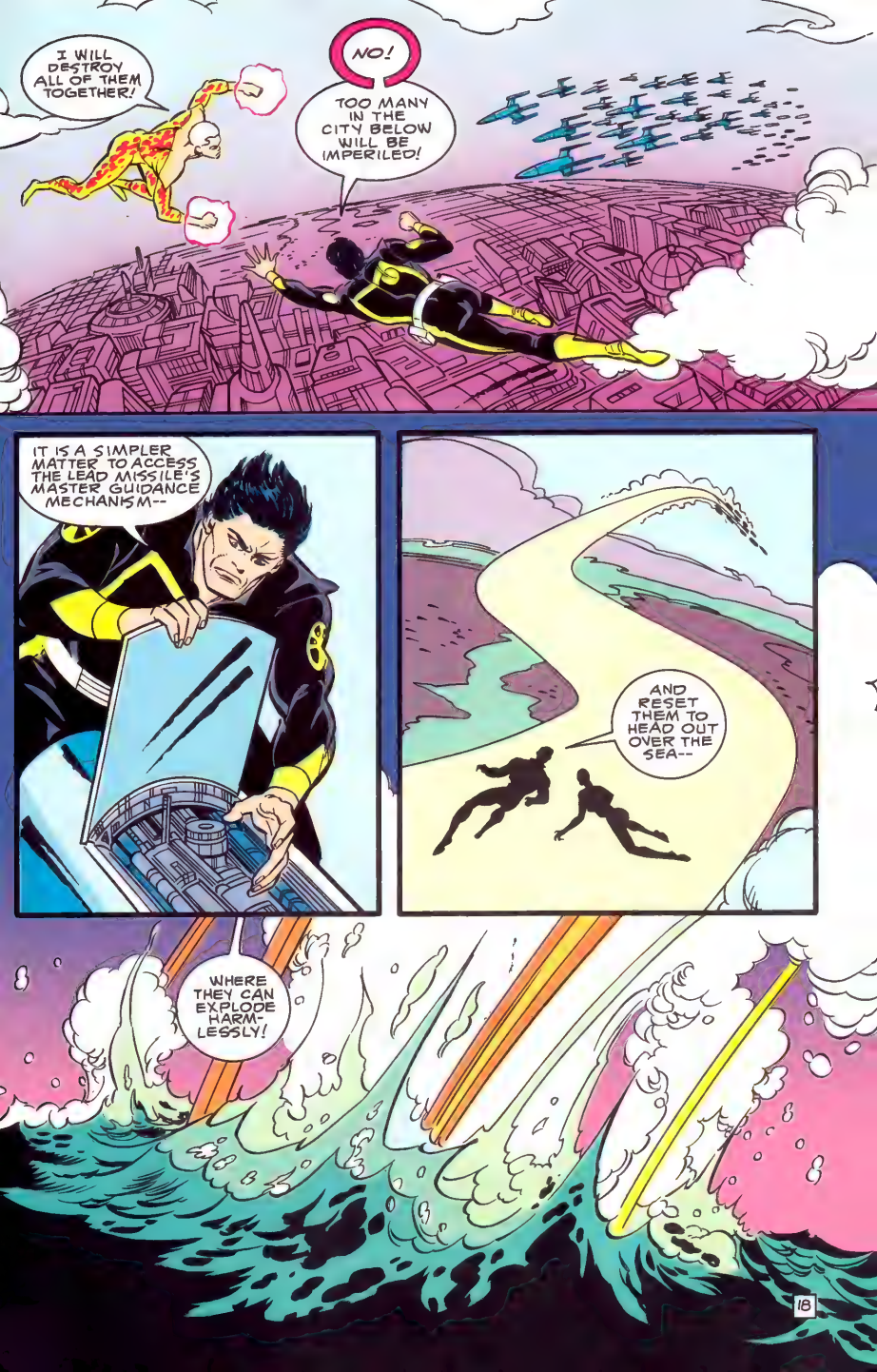

UNAUTHORIZED AIRSPACE VIOLATION! CRAFT HEADING AT SPEED FOR LANDFALL.
ASSUME HOSTILE?

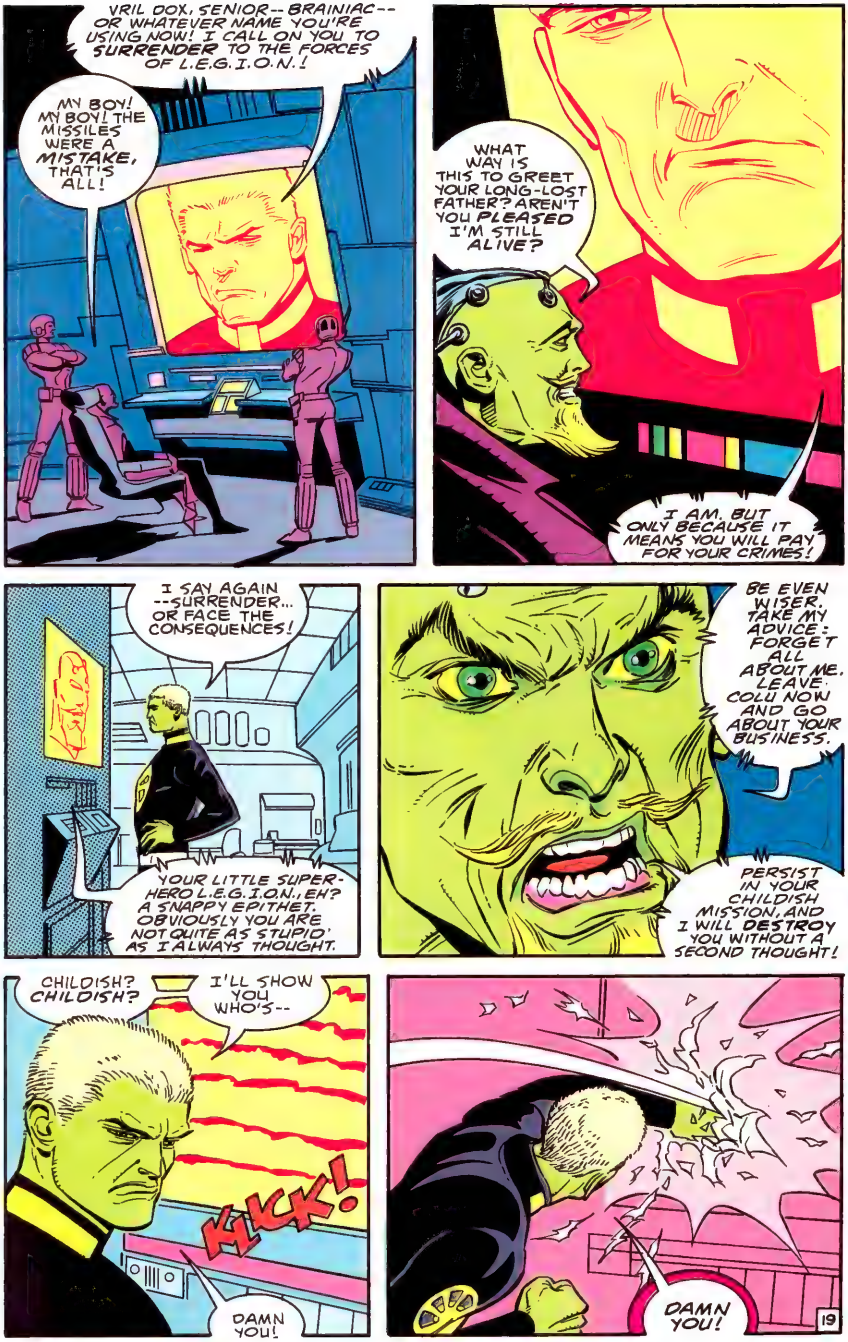

BIOSCAN SHOWS 9 LIFEFORMS.
1 DAXAMITE, 1 UNKNOWN, IN FLIGHT.
ON BOARD:
1 DRYAD
1 TALOKIAN.
1 CZARNIAN,
1 ZSIGLONITE.
2 UNKNOWNS.
1 COLUAN.

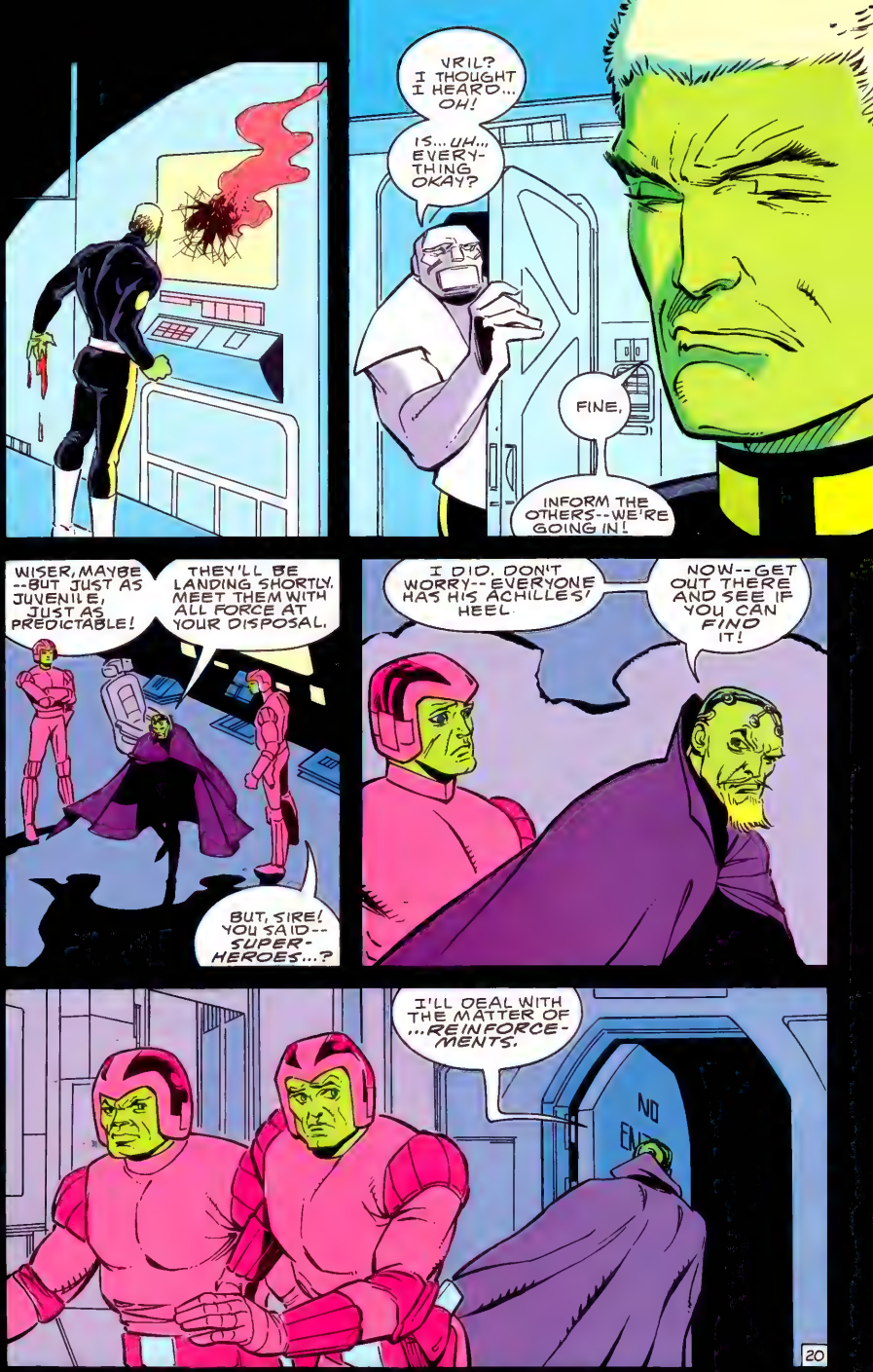
VRIL DOX, JR.
VRIL DOX--MY SON? RETURNING HERE--AND WITH A SUPER-POWERED GROUP?
SO, HE HAS RISEN TO THE CHALLENGE!


ASSUME HOSTILE!
ARM AND FIRE DEFENSIVE MISSILES!

CHAPTER TWO
STRAINED
RELATIONS
BAA-RAAM!
BAM!!


I WILL DESTROY ALL OF THEM TOGETHER!
NO!
TOO MANY IN THE CITY BELOW WILL BE IMPERILED!
IT IS A SIMPLER MATTER TO ACCESS THE LEAD MISSILE'S MASTER GUIDANCE MECHANISM--
AND RESET THEM TO HEAD OUT OVER THE SEA--
WHERE THEY CAN EXPLODE HARMLESSLY!


VRIL DOX, SENIOR-- BRAINIAC-- OR WHATEVER NAME YOU'RE USING NOW! I CALL ON YOU TO SURRENDER TO THE FORCES OF L.E.G.I.O.N.!
MY BOY! MY BOY! THE MISSILES WERE A MISTAKE, THAT'S ALL!
WHAT WAY IS THIS TO GREET YOUR LONG-LOST FATHER? AREN'T YOU PLEASED I'M STILL ALIVE?
I AM, BUT ONLY BECAUSE IT MEANS YOU WILL PAY FOR YOUR CRIMES!
I SAY AGAIN --SURRENDER... OR FACE THE CONSEQUENCES!
YOUR LITTLE SUPER-HERO L.E.G.I.O.N., EH? A SNAPPY EPITHET. OBVIOUSLY YOU ARE NOT QUITE AS STUPID AS I ALWAYS THOUGHT.
BE EVEN WISER. TAKE MY ADVICE: FORGET ALL ABOUT ME. LEAVE COLU NOW AND GO ABOUT YOUR BUSINESS.
PERSIST IN YOUR CHILDISH MISSION, AND I WILL DESTROY YOU WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT!
CHILDISH? CHILDISH?
I'LL SHOW YOU WHO'S--
KICK!
DAMN YOU!
DAMN YOU!

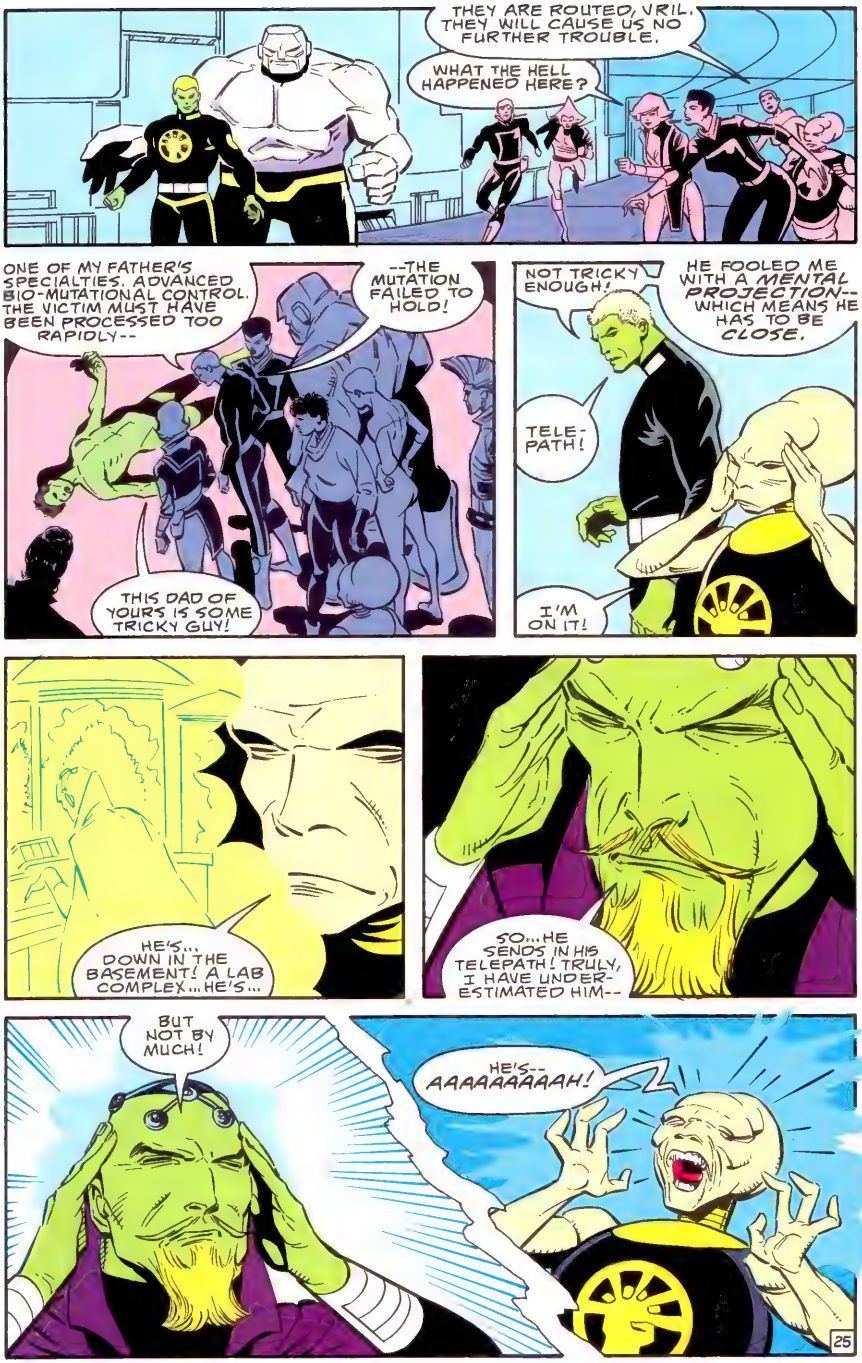

VRIL? I THOUGHT I HEARD... OH!
IS... UH... EVERY-THING OKAY?
FINE.
INFORM THE OTHERS--WE'RE GOING IN!
WISER, MAYBE --BUT JUST AS JUVENILE, JUST AS PREDICTABLE!
THEY'LL BE LANDING SHORTLY. MEET THEM WITH ALL FORCE AT YOUR DISPOSAL.
BUT, SIRE! YOU SAID-- SUPER-HEROES...?
I DID. DON'T WORRY--EVERYONE HAS HIS ACHILLES' HEEL.
NOW--GET OUT THERE AND SEE IF YOU CAN FIND IT!
I'LL DEAL WITH THE MATTER OF ...REINFORCE-MENTS.
NO
EN

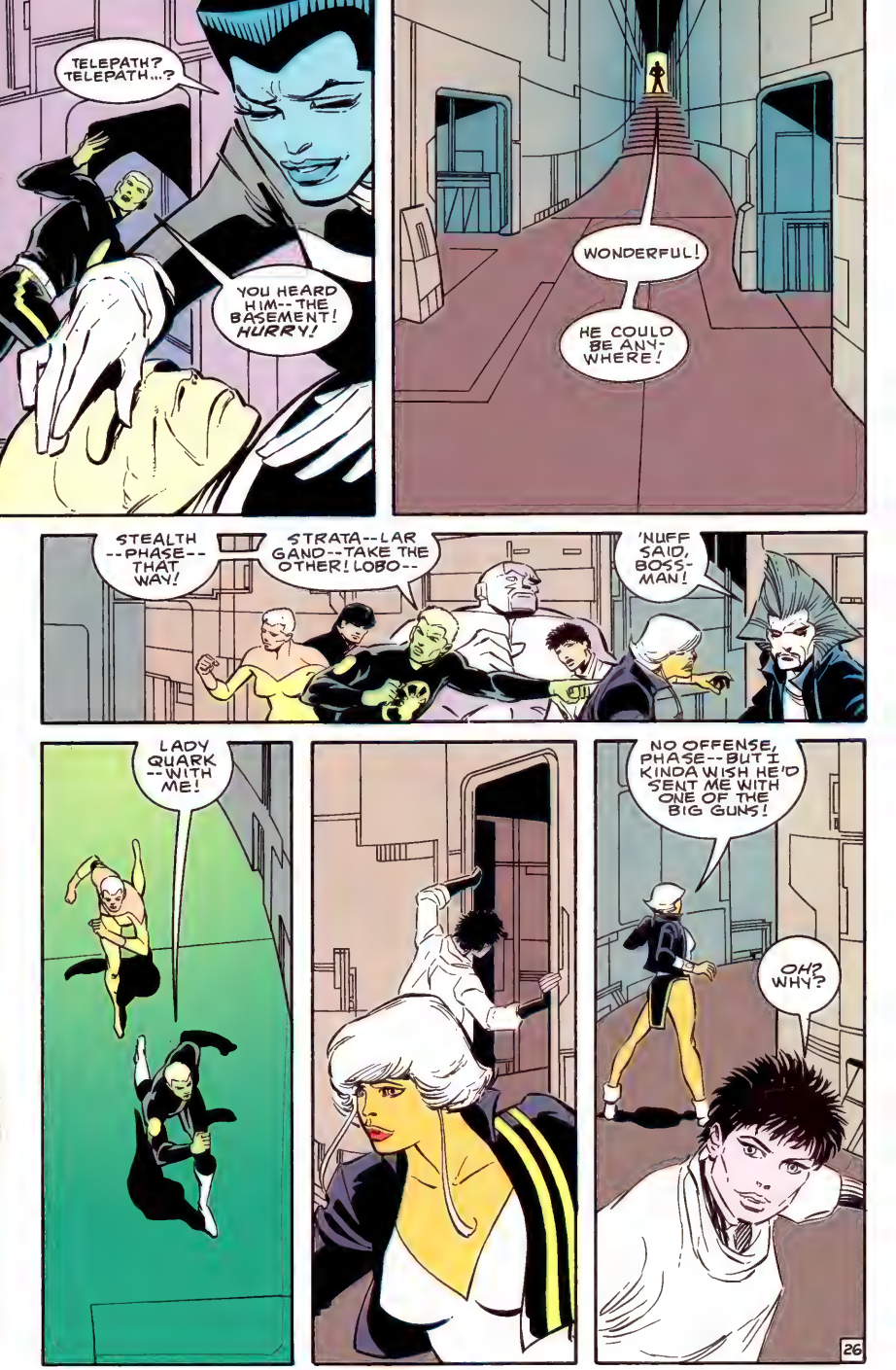
Y-YOU ARE ALL PRISONERS OF BRAINIAC/EMPEROR OF COLU! C-COME OUT WITH YOUR HANDS HELD HIGH--AND NO T-TRICKS!
LISTEN TO THEM! THEY'RE TERRIFIED! WE CANNOT GO OUT THERE, VRIL--IT WOULD BE A MASSACRE!
AFRAID--BUT THEY STAND THEIR GROUND.
PRESUMABLY, MY FATHER HAS REPROGRAMMED THEM SO THEY OBEY HIS ORDERS, AT THE EXPENSE OF THEIR OWN EMOTIONS!
IF YOU TRULY THINK A MAN LIKE THAT SHOULD LIVE, PERHAPS YOU OUGHT TO DO SOME RE-CONSIDERING YOUR-SELF, LYRISSA--ON THE SUBJECT OF YOUR COMMIT-MENT TO L.E.G.I.O.N.!
BETTER MAKE UP YOUR MIND FAST --BECAUSE THEY'LL HAVE NO QUALMS ABOUT KILLING YOU!

LAR GAND! THE GATE--!
KRAAASHH!
MOONS OF DAXAM! WHAT--?
KRAKK
WELCOME HOME, BOY!
COME-- EMBRACE YOUR LONG-LOST FATHER!

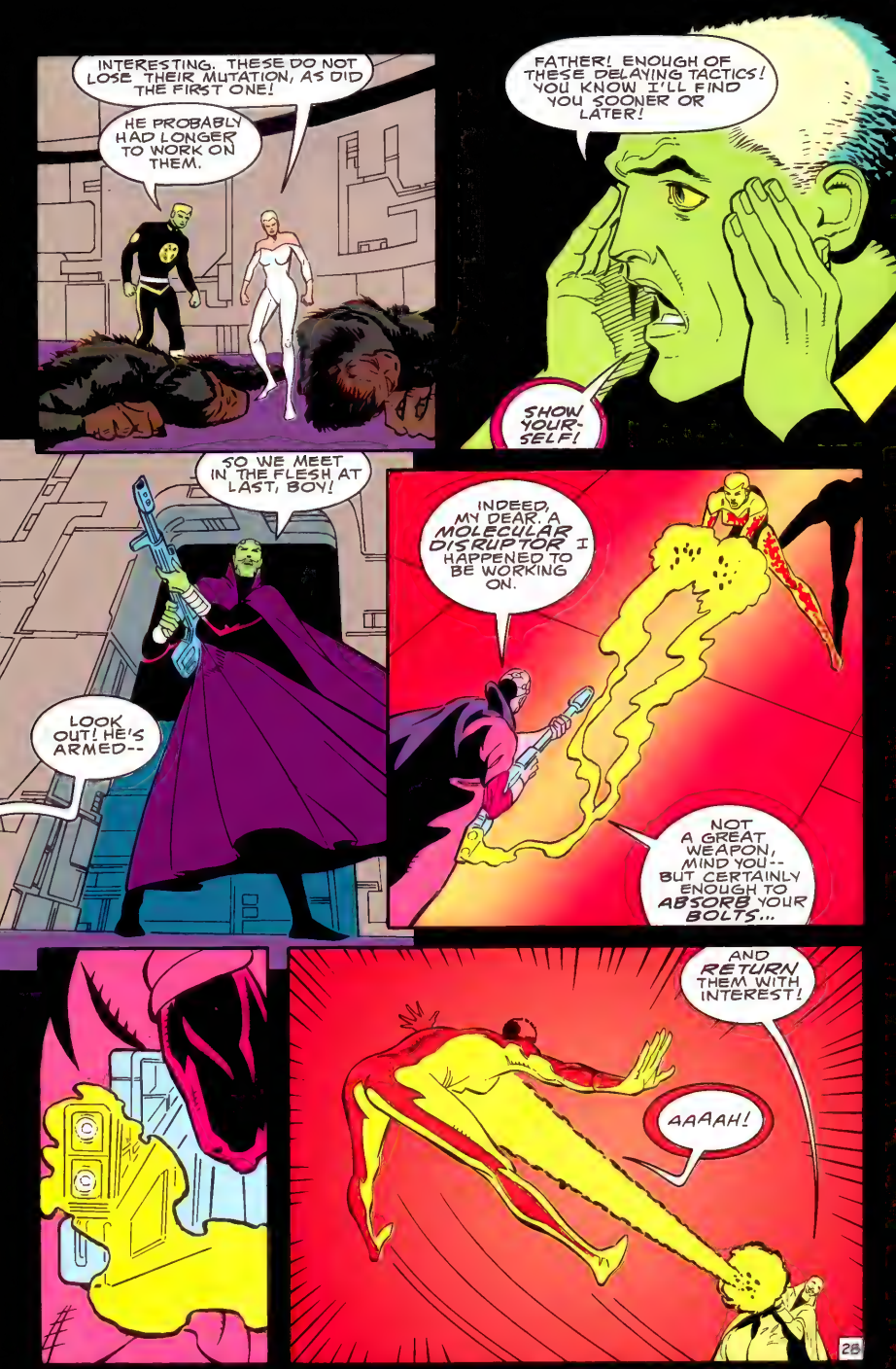
I'LL EMBRACE YOU, ALL RIGHT--
THOOM
TRAITOR!

HUH ...?
SHEESH! THAT'S ONE WAY OF GETTIN' OUT OF A FIGHT...!


THEY ARE ROUTED, VRIL. THEY WILL CAUSE US NO FURTHER TROUBLE.
WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED HERE?
ONE OF MY FATHER'S SPECIALTIES, ADVANCED BIO-MUTATIONAL CONTROL. THE VICTIM MUST HAVE BEEN PROCESSED TOO RAPIDLY--
--THE MUTATION FAILED TO HOLD!
THIS DAD OF YOURS IS SOME TRICKY GUY!
NOT TRICKY ENOUGH!
HE FOOLED ME WITH A MENTAL PROJECTION-- WHICH MEANS HE HAS TO BE CLOSE.
TELE-PATH!
I'M ON IT!
HE'S... DOWN IN THE BASEMENT! A LAB COMPLEX... HE'S...
SO...HE SENDS IN HIS TELEPATH! TRULY, I HAVE UNDER-ESTIMATED HIM--
BUT NOT BY MUCH!
HE'S-- AAAAAAAAAH!
25

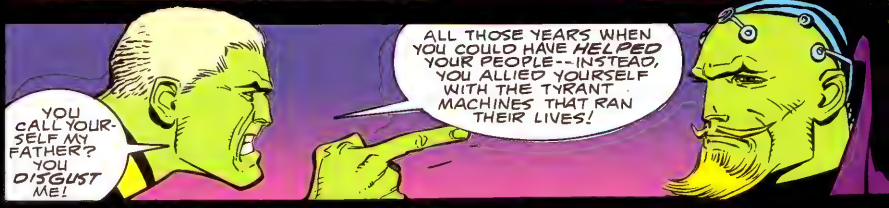

TELEPATH? TELEPATH...?
YOU HEARD HIM--THE BASEMENT! HURRY!
WONDERFUL!
HE COULD BE ANYWHERE!
STEALTH --PHASE-- THAT WAY!
STRATA--LAR GAND--TAKE THE OTHER! LOBO--
'NUFF SAID, BOSS-MAN!
LADY QUARK --WITH ME!
NO OFFENSE, PHASE--BUT I KINDA WISH HE'D SENT ME WITH ONE OF THE BIG GUNS!
OH? WHY?

OH!
--BE SIMPLER IF YOU JUST USED YOUR SUPER-VISION, LAR?
THAT IS NOT SO EASY, STRATA. THERE MUST BE A SMALL LEAD COMPONENT TO THESE WALLS.
IT'S MAKING MY VISION... UNRELIABLE.
NEVER MIND.
HOW'S YOUR STRENGTH?
HEY, HEY!
PLAYTIME!
DO YOU WANT THEM--
DEAD!
27


INTERESTING. THESE DO NOT LOSE THEIR MUTATION, AS DID THE FIRST ONE!
HE PROBABLY HAD LONGER TO WORK ON THEM.
FATHER! ENOUGH OF THESE DELAYING TACTICS! YOU KNOW I'LL FIND YOU SOONER OR LATER!
SHOW YOURSELF!
SO WE MEET IN THE FLESH AT LAST, BOY!
LOOK OUT! HE'S ARMED--
INDEED, MY DEAR. A MOLECULAR DISRUPTOR I HAPPENED TO BE WORKING ON.
NOT A GREAT WEAPON, MIND YOU-- BUT CERTAINLY ENOUGH TO ABSORB YOUR BOLTS...
AND RETURN THEM WITH INTEREST!
AAAAH!
28

WE HAVE A LONG, HARD SCORE TO SETTLE, YOU AND I!
YOU SURPRISE ME, BOY. YOU'RE OBVIOUSLY TWICE THE BEING I TOOK YOU FOR. BUT WHY MUST WE FIGHT?
WE'RE FAMILY--FATHER AND SON. WE SHOULD BE WORKING TOGETHER.

IMAGINE, BOY! YOU AND I, WORKING IN TANDEM... WHY, IT WOULDN'T SURPRISE ME IF WE COULD RULE THE UNIVERSE!
DON'T TOUCH ME!


YOU CALL YOURSELF MY FATHER? YOU DISGUST ME!
ALL THOSE YEARS WHEN YOU COULD HAVE HELPED YOUR PEOPLE--INSTEAD, YOU ALLIED YOURSELF WITH THE TYRANT MACHINES THAT RAN THEIR LIVES!

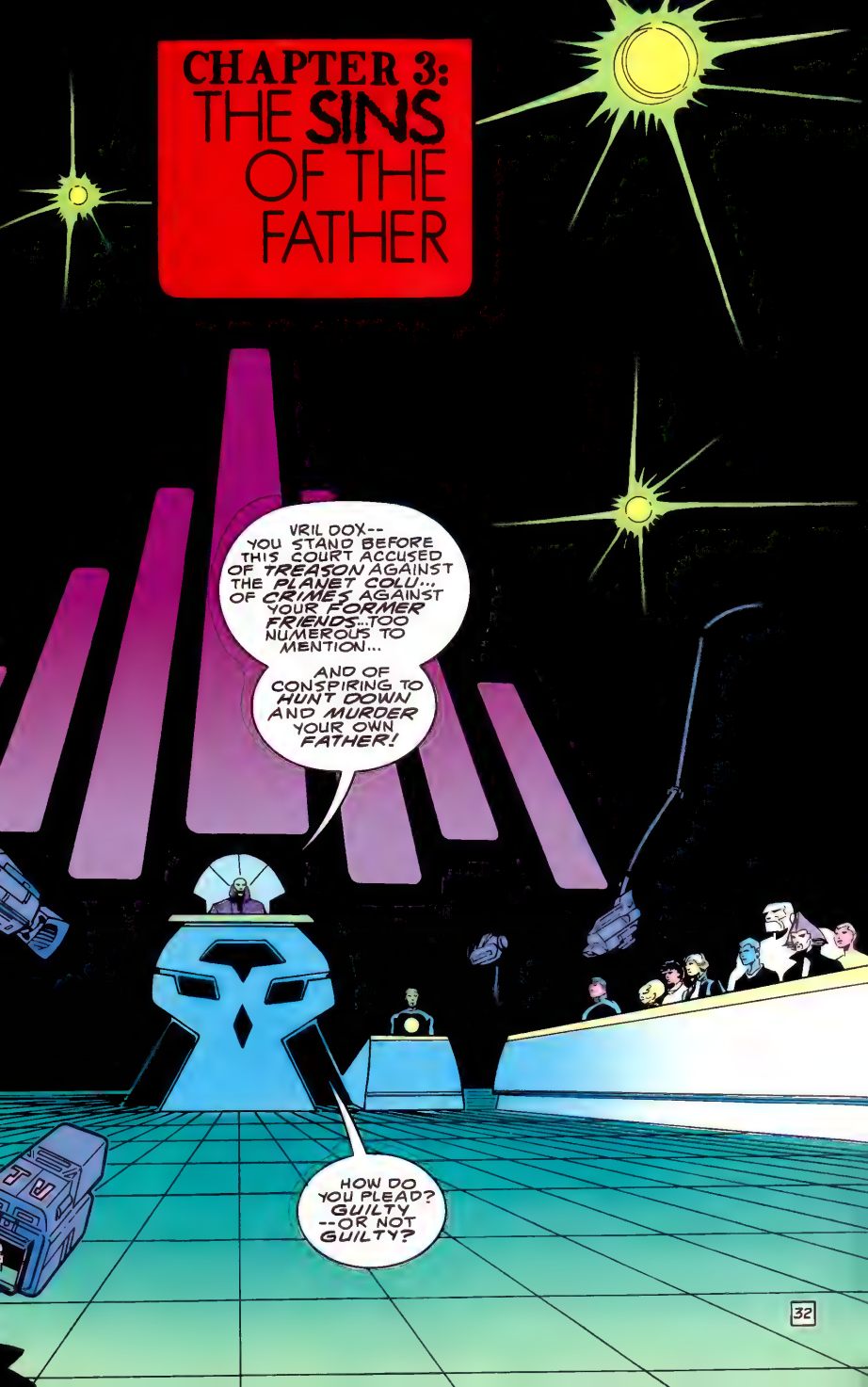
YOU'RE SCUM! I DESPISE YOU!
PTOOO

VERY WELL.
WE PLAY IT YOUR WAY. SETTLE YOUR SCORE WITH ME.

IF YOU CAN!

AAAGH!
YOU CAN END THE PAIN! SAY ONLY THAT YOU BOW TO MY WILL!
N... NEVER!
WHILE THERE IS... BREATH IN MY BODY...
...I WILL RESIST YOU!
INCREDIBLE! THE STRENGTH OF YOUR WILL BIDS TO EQUAL MY OWN!
EQUALS IT, TYRANT--
AND BETTERS IT!
WHAPP!

WE ARE TOO CLOSE-- OUR MINDS TOO SIMILAR-- FOR YOU EVER TO CONTROL ME!
PERHAPS SO...
BUT WHERE YOU CAN WITHSTAND MY MENTAL ASSAULTS--YOUR FRIENDS CANNOT!
LYRISSA! PUT DOWN THE GUN.
IT'S ALL RIGHT! HE'S FINISHED! WE'VE WON!
HE IS... NOT THE TARGET... VRIL!
AAHHHHH!
31


CHAPTER 3:
THE SINS OF THE FATHER
VRIL DOX-- YOU STAND BEFORE THIS COURT ACCUSED OF TREASON AGAINST THE PLANET COLU... OF CRIMES AGAINST YOUR FORMER FRIENDS...TOO NUMEROUS TO MENTION...
AND OF CONSPIRING TO HUNT DOWN AND MURDER YOUR OWN FATHER!
HOW DO YOU PLEAD? GUILTY --OR NOT GUILTY?

THIS IS INSANE! YOU ARE THE TRAITOR, --THE CRIMINAL! YOU--NOT ME!
CAN'T YOU SEE HE'S CONTROLLING YOUR MINDS?
FIGHT HIM, YOU FOOLS! FIGHT HIM!
YOU HAVE IT WRONG, BOY. THEY ARE NOT MY SLAVES.
I HAVE MERELY RELEASED THEIR TRUE, INNERMOST FEELINGS ABOUT YOU!
LIAR!
WE SHALL SEE. I CALL THE FIRST WITNESS FOR THE PROSECUTION--
--THE DAXAMITE, LAR GAND!
I WAS EAGER AND EXCITED TO JOIN THE L.E.G.I.O.N....
BUT DOX IMMEDIATELY EXPOSED ME TO LEAD-- TO BULLY AND INTIMIDATE ME!
IT WAS NOTHING PERSONAL, LAR, POWERS SUCH AS YOURS MUST BE KEPT UNDER CONTROL!
YOU ALMOST KILLED ME! YOU ARE EVIL!
33

ELOQUENTLY PUT, LAR GAND.
TELEPATH! YOUR TESTIMONY, PLEASE!
I.. I WOULD RATHER NOT!
PLEASE. I INSIST.
I ADMIT DOX SAVED MY LIFE. I OWE HIM.
BUT NEVER FOR A MOMENT HAS HE LET ME FORGET THAT! IN RETURN FOR HIS LARGESSE, HE EXPECTS ME TO BE HIS WILLING SLAVE!
...DOX IS TOO WEAK--NOT FIT TO HEAD THE ORGANIZATION HE FOUNDED!
AS A LEADER, HE IS AN ABJECT FAILURE!
...ALWAYS BLAMED ME FOR THE DISAPPEARANCE OF HIS PRECIOUS DURLAN!
HE'S MADE MY LIFE HELL!
AND SPEAKING OF DURLANS, OLD FRIEND--
YOU!
BUT... HOW?
NO! HE IS NOT REAL!
MY FATHER IS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF MY MENTAL TURMOIL TO INSINUATE HIMSELF INTO MY MIND!

SOME-THING WRONG, BOY? HA!
NEXT WITNESS --THE DRYAD, STRATA!
I MUST BE ON GUARD FOR HIS TRICKS!

I SHARE VRIL'S DREAM FOR A GALAXY FREE OF CRIME!
BUT I'M *DISGUSTED* BY THE METHODS HE OFTEN EMPLOYS!
IF IT WASN'T FOR THE GOOD THE L.E.G.I.O.N. CAN DO, I WOULDN'T COME WITHIN A MILLION MILES OF HIM!

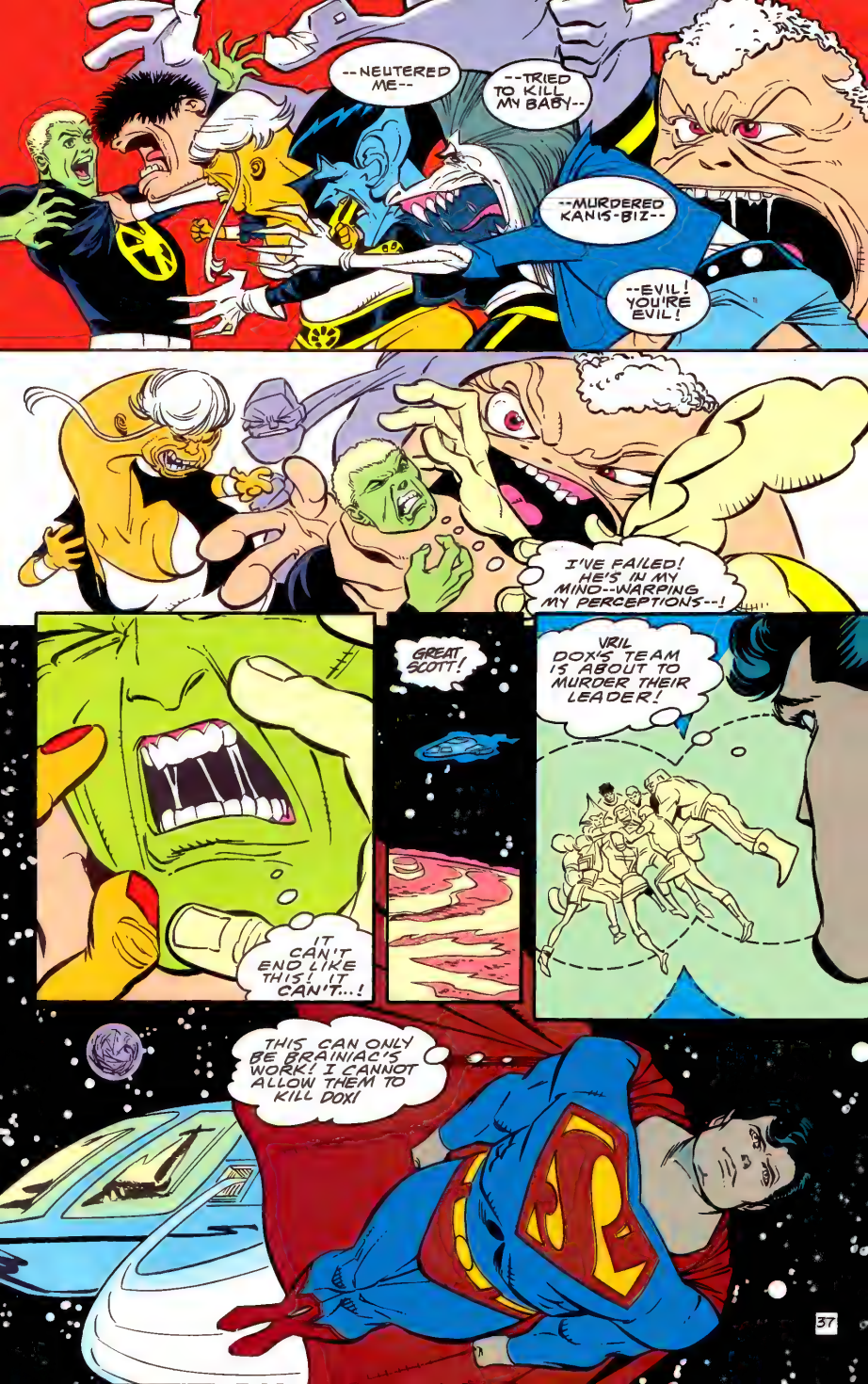
... AND WHEN HE FOUND OUT I WAS *PREGNANT*, FIRST HE TRIED TO HAVE ME *ABORT* IT--

AND THEN HE TRIED TO *BUY* THE BABY FROM ME!
YOU'RE *SICK*, DOX! I DESPISE YOU!

HE LIES --HE CHEATS --HE IS A LAW UNTO HIMSELF!
I AM *ASHAMED* TO BELONG TO THE SAME TEAM.

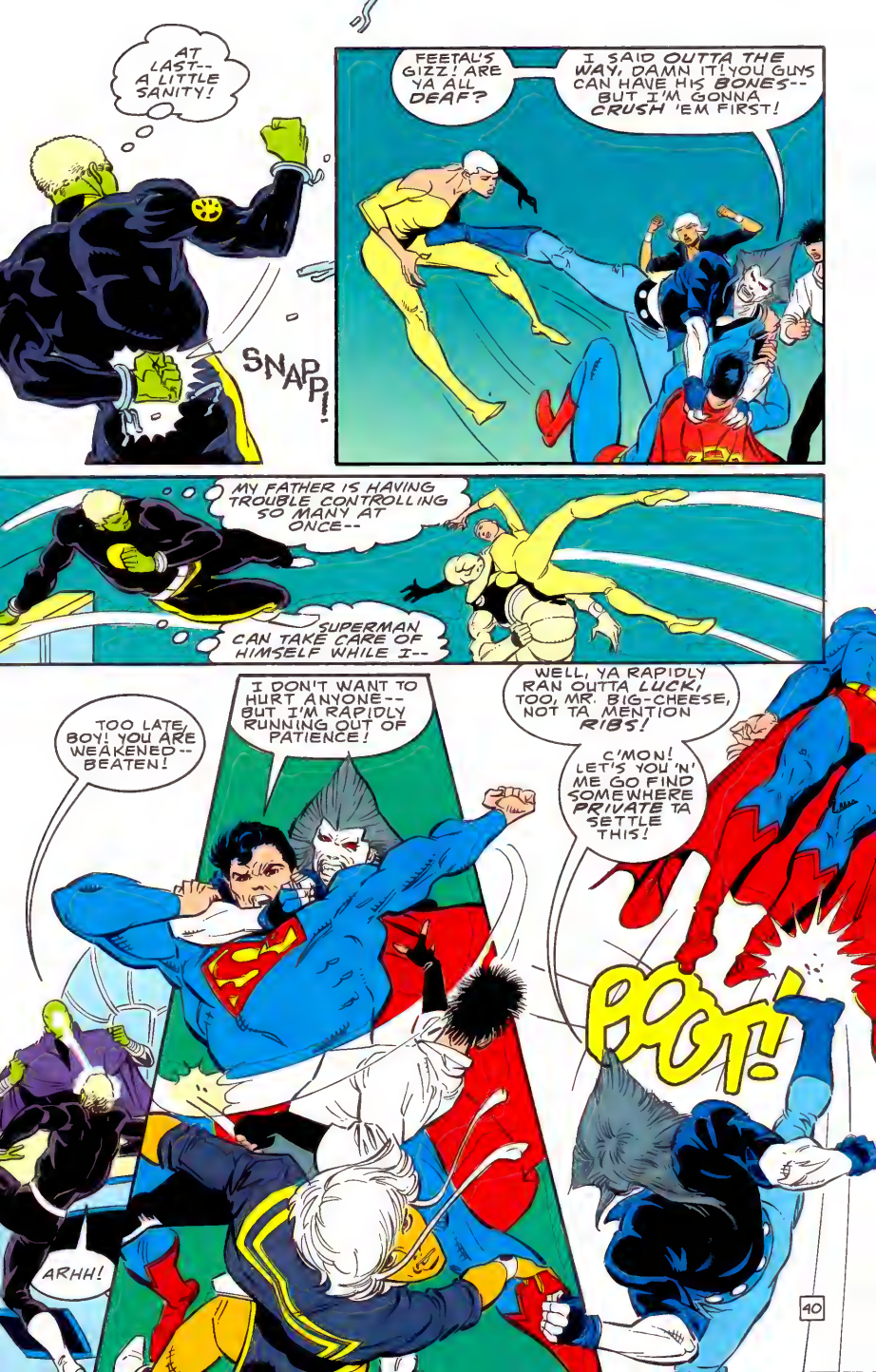
AWRIGHT, CHAMP! IS TIME THE *MAIN MAN* GOT HIS SAY!
I *TRUSTED* THE CREEP-- AN' HE *NEUTERED* ME!

LEMME AT 'IM! I'LL MANGLE THE SLEAZEBALL! I'LL PLAY HIS FRAGGIN'--
ENOUGH! THIS IS A COURTROOM, NOT A CIRCUS!
WELL, BOY? YOU HAVE HEARD THE EVIDENCE. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY FOR YOURSELF?
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, ANY OF YOU!
EVERYTHING I DID, I DID FOR THE CAUSE OF LAW AND JUSTICE. I DID IT ALL FOR L.E.G.I.O.N.!
ENOUGH! YOU ARE CONDEMNED OUT OF YOUR OWN MOUTH!
IT IS ONLY FAIR THAT YOUR VICTIMS PASS SENTENCE. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WHAT IS YOUR VERDICT?
DEATH!
DEATH!
KILL HIM!
DON'T BE STUPID! YOU'RE ALLOWING HIM TO DESTROY EVERYTHING WE'VE WORKED FOR!
RESIST HIM, DAMN YOU! FIGHT!
WHAT THE HELL --?
AAAHHH HHHHHH!


--NEUTERED ME--
--TRIED TO KILL MY BABY--
--MURDERED KANIS-BIZ--
--EVIL! YOU'RE EVIL!
I'VE FAILED! HE'S IN MY MIND--WARPING MY PERCEPTIONS--!
GREAT SCOTT!
IT CAN'T END LIKE THIS! IT CAN'T...!
VRIL DOX'S TEAM IS ABOUT TO MURDER THEIR LEADER!
THIS CAN ONLY BE BRAINIAC'S WORK! I CANNOT ALLOW THEM TO KILL DOX!

FAREWELL, BOY! SHARE THE FATE OF ANY WHO THINK THEY CAN STAND AGAINST THE GREAT BRAINIAC!
L.E.G.I.O.N.NAIRES! BIND THE PERPETRATOR IN HANDCUFFS!
YES!
THIS TIME THERE IS NO ESCAPE. YOUR CAREER IS OVER!
I COMMAND YOU--STOP HIM!
FRASSH!
BRAINIAC! ENOUGH! CALL THEM OFF!
MMF FFF!
LADY QUARK! I DON'T WANT TO HARM HER!
WHOOSH!
BUT I'VE NO TIME TO WASTE FIGHTING THEM, EITHER!
YOU! HERE ...?
WHUNK!

LAR GAND! YOU HAVE THE STRENGTH! TAKE HIM!
HE'S CLUMSY-- UNCOORDINATED! OBVIOUSLY MENTALLY DOMINATED BY BRAINIAC...
I CAN'T TAKE HIM OUT, BUT I CAN GET RID OF HIM FOR A WHILE!
SKRAAK!
HE SIDES WITH EVIL! HE MUST DIE!
SUPERMAN! MY BONDS--!
USE YOUR HEAT VISION!
HSSSSSS!
IT'S DONE!
OUTTA MY FRAGGIN' WAY! I OWE THAT SUPER-CHUMP FOR BASHIN' MY HEAD WITH THE DAXAMITE'S!
39


AT LAST-- A LITTLE SANITY!
SNAPP!
FEETAL'S GIZZ! ARE YA ALL DEAF?
I SAID OUTTA THE WAY, DAMN IT! YOU GUYS CAN HAVE HIS BONES-- BUT I'M GONNA CRUSH 'EM FIRST!
MY FATHER IS HAVING TROUBLE CONTROLLING SO MANY AT ONCE--
SUPERMAN CAN TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF WHILE I--
TOO LATE, BOY! YOU ARE WEAKENED-- BEATEN!
I DON'T WANT TO HURT ANYONE-- BUT I'M RAPIDLY RUNNING OUT OF PATIENCE!
WELL, YA RAPIDLY RAN OUTTA LUCK, TOO, MR. BIG-CHEESE, NOT TA MENTION RIBS!
C'MON! LET'S YOU 'N' ME GO FIND SOMEWHERE PRIVATE TA SETTLE THIS!
POOT!
ARHH!

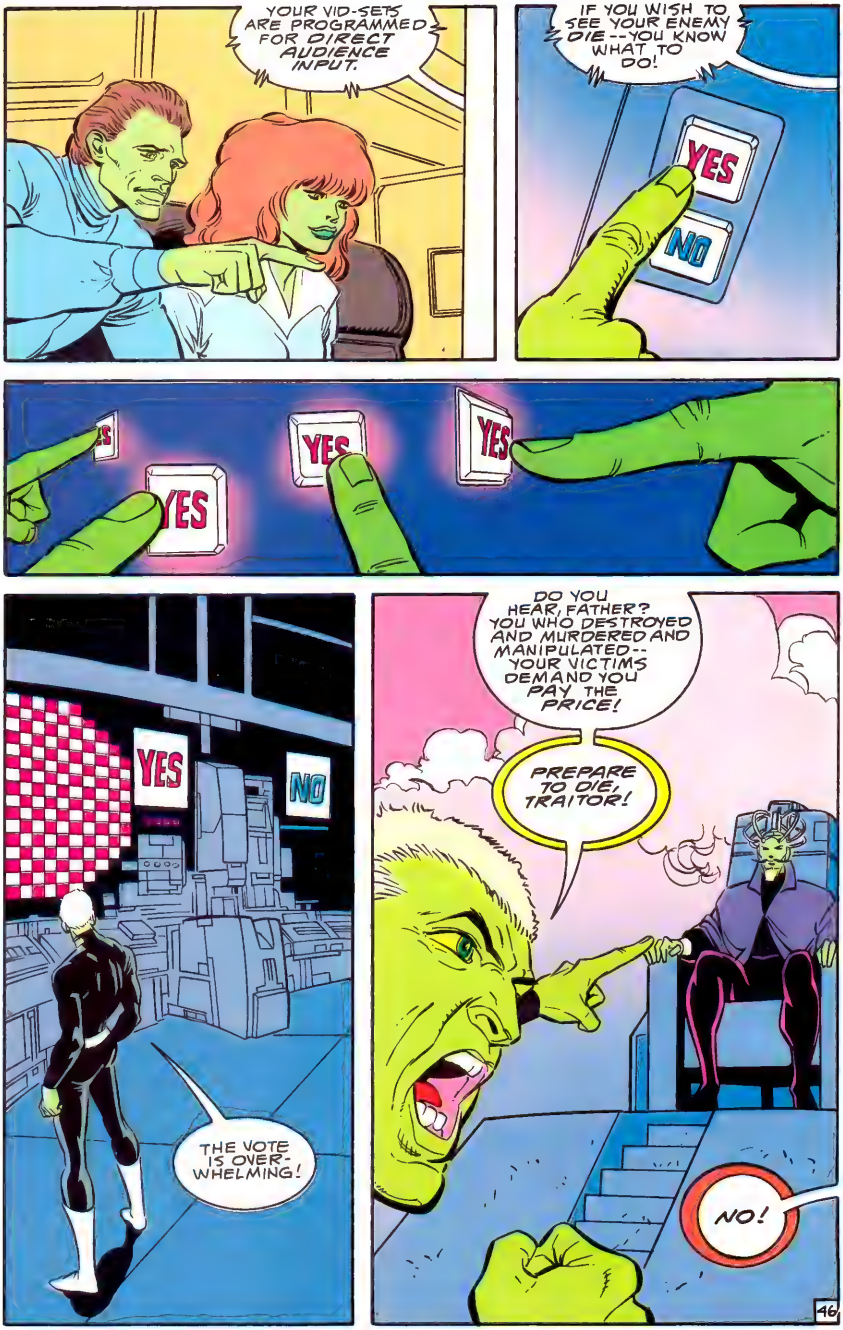
WELL, LOBO'S GONE...
...BUT SO IS SUPERMAN!
STILL, I MIGHT HAVE A CHANCE...
HOLD IT RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE!
C'MON, DOX. YOU WOULDN'T SHOOT YOUR OLD PALS, WOULD YOU?
PUT IT DOWN, VRIL! YOU CANNOT STOP ALL OF US!
NO?
I CAN CERTAINLY TRY!
BLAAM!
41

WE'RE ALL ALONE NOW, BLUE-EYES-- SO PUCKER UP AN' LET'S BOOGIE!
KAWUMP!
LOBO--SNAP OUT OF IT! THIS IS BRAINIAC'S DOING. YOU'RE NOT YOURSELF!
IZZAT A FACT? SO TELL ME--
WHO EXACTLY DO YA THINK I AM?
LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE?
KAPOOM!
IS THAT YER BEST SHOT? THROWIN' STONES?
WHAT'S THAT? DID I HEAR "UNCLE"?
KEEP RAVING, MANIAC!
LETCHA IN ON A SECRET, SUPER-DUPER-- YA WANNA STOP ME, YA GOTTA HIT ME!

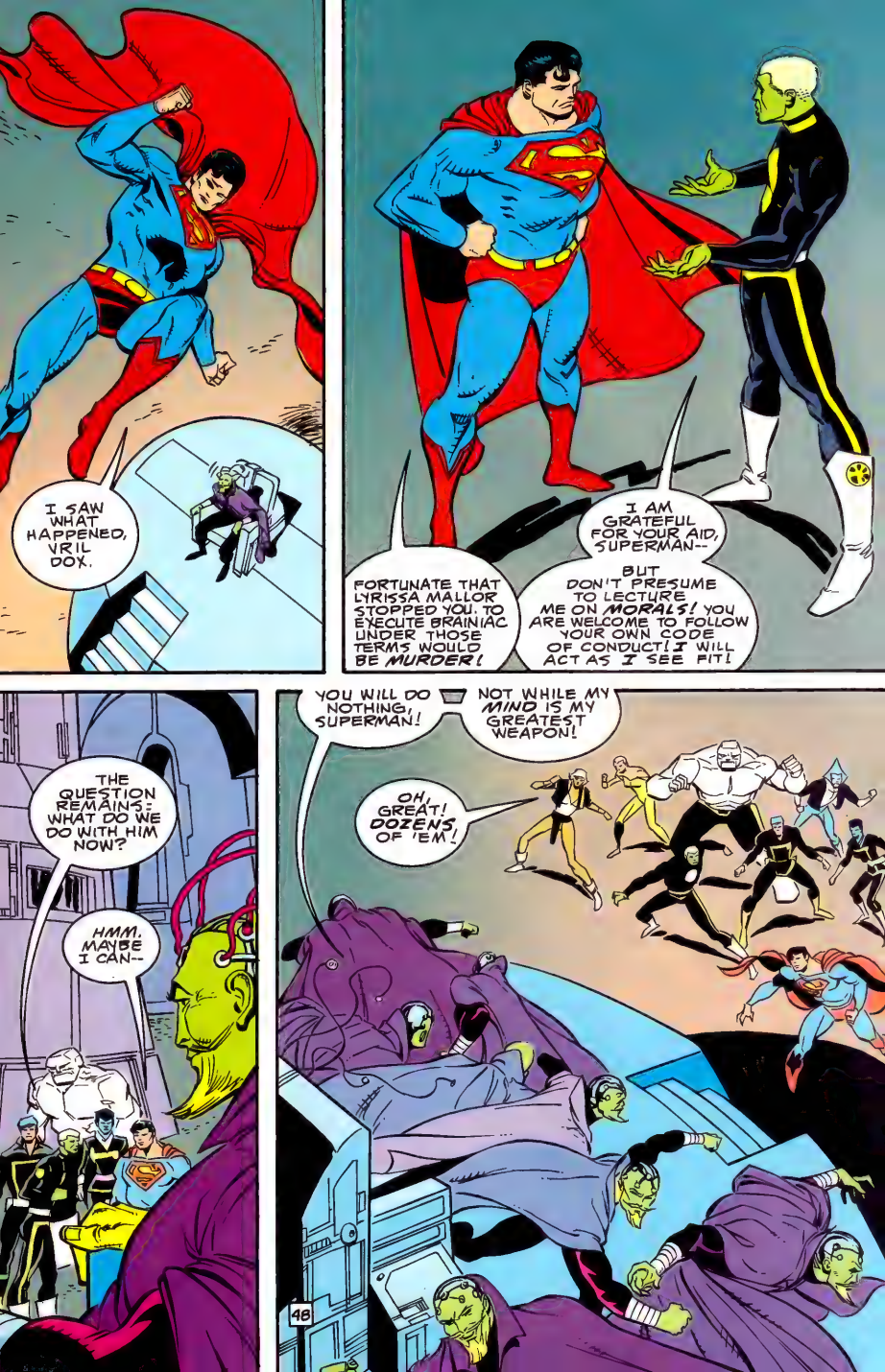
...THREE... TWO... ONE...
AWRIGHT-- LET THE LIMB-BREAKIN' COMMENCE!
...CONTACT!
KRUNK!
SORRY, LOBO. BUT STOPPING BRAINIAC'S A LOT MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOU!
YEAH? SO STICK AROUND AN' TELL ME ABOUT IT, SMART GUY!
YAANK!
HEEEYY! PUT ME DOWN!
43

IT'S OVER, FATHER.
UNGH! MY HEAD FEELS LIKE IT'S BEEN STOMPED!
YEAH--AND THE REST OF ME!
WHAT...WHAT HAPPENED?
YOU WERE UNDER BRAINIAC'S MENTAL CONTROL. HE TRIED TO MAKE YOU KILL ME!
AND YOU BEAT US ALL? NICE GOIN'!
SO WHAT DO WE DO WITH HIM NOW?
HIS FIRST CRIMES --IT MIGHT BE SAID HIS WORST CRIMES-- WERE COMMITTED AGAINST THE PEOPLE OF COLU.
IT IS THEY WHO SHOULD DETERMINE HIS FATE!
LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE? SOUND'S FAIR ENOUGH TO ME.
WHAT DO YOU THINK, LYRISSA?

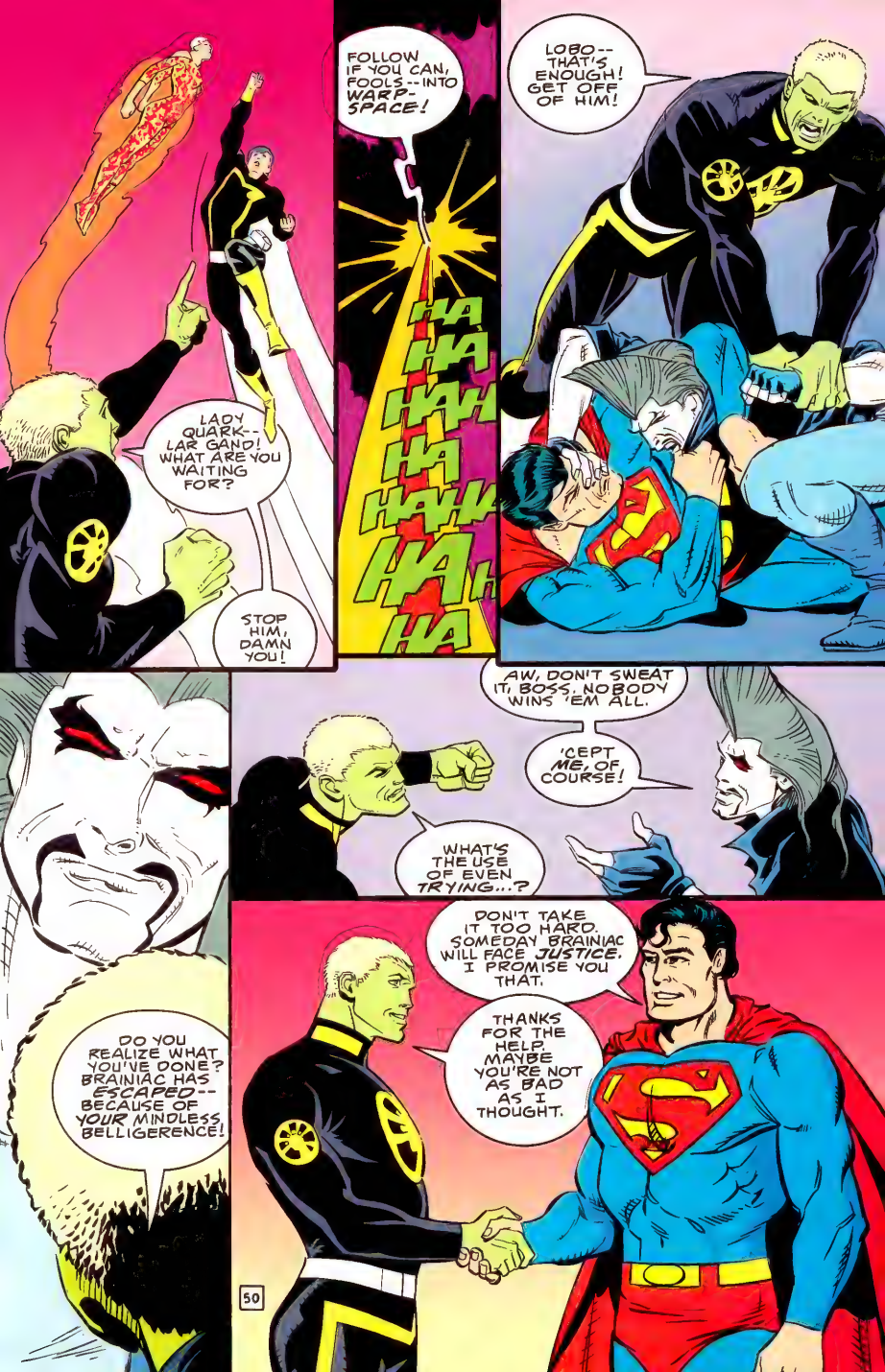
"HEY--ANYBODY KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO LYRISSA?"
THIS IS COLU'S MAIN DATA STORAGE CHAMBER--THE CENTRAL CORE--WHERE L.E.G.I.O.N. DEFEATED THE COMPUTER TYRANTS!*
*IN L.E.G.I.O.N. '89 #2.--ART.
AS I SUSPECTED!
BY THE SHADOWS, VRIL DOX! IS THERE NO END TO YOUR DEVIOUSNESS!?!
THE COMPUTER TYRANTS KEPT A PUBLIC EXECUTION ARENA TO PUNISH DISSENTERS.
SET UP THE CAMERAS FOR A PLANET-WIDE BROADCAST!
FINALLY...
PEOPLE OF COLU--AT LAST I AM ABLE TO BRING YOUR GREATEST TRAITOR TO FACE JUSTICE!
YOU KNOW MY FATHER. YOU KNOW HIS EVIL.
WE NEED NOT ASK IF HE IS GUILTY--
ONLY IF HE SHOULD BE IMPRISONED--OR EXECUTED!


YOUR VID-SETS ARE PROGRAMMED FOR DIRECT AUDIENCE INPUT.
IF YOU WISH TO SEE YOUR ENEMY DIE--YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO!
YES
NO
YES
YES
YES
YES
NO
THE VOTE IS OVER-WHELMING!
DO YOU HEAR, FATHER? YOU WHO DESTROYED AND MURDERED AND MANIPULATED-- YOUR VICTIMS DEMAND YOU PAY THE PRICE!
PREPARE TO DIE, TRAITOR!
NO!

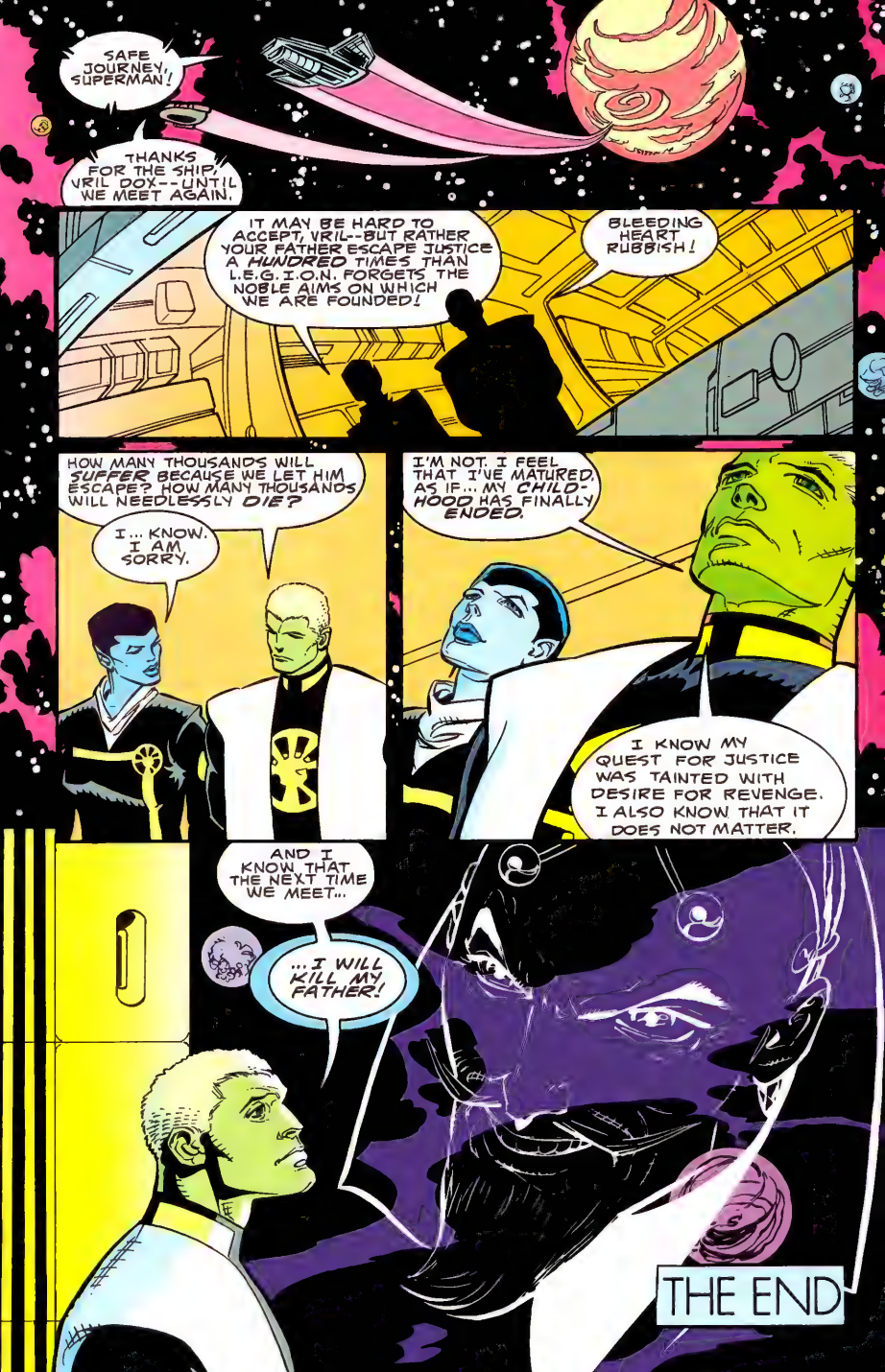
IT IS NOT COLU WHO SENTENCED HIM TO DEATH, DOX--IT'S YOU!
I WAS SUSPICIOUS FROM THE MOMENT I HEARD BRAINIAC COULD NOT BRAIN-WASH THE COLUANS --THEY REMAINED LOYAL TO YOU.
SO I DID SOME CHECKING. THE DATA FILES CLEARLY RECORD THAT AFTER DEFEATING THE TYRANTS, YOU PROGRAMMED COLU WITH AN ENHANCED CHARISMA PERCEPTION OF YOURSELF!
YOU MEAN-- COLU DOES WHAT DOX TELLS IT?
GOOD LORD! WHEN DOES IT STOP, DOX?
PRECISELY!
WHAT? MY TELESCOPIC VISION SHOWS BRAINIAC DEFEATED--AND THEN L.E.G.I.O.N. RELEASED FROM HIS CONTROL!
BUT... IF THEY ARE-- WHY AREN'T YOU?
I AM, BLUE-EYES.
I JUST LIKE A GOOD FRAGGIN' FIGHT!
SO LET'S GET ON--
HEY! YA CAN'T JUST BUG OUT! I AIN'T DONE WITH YA!
CHICKEN LINER!
47

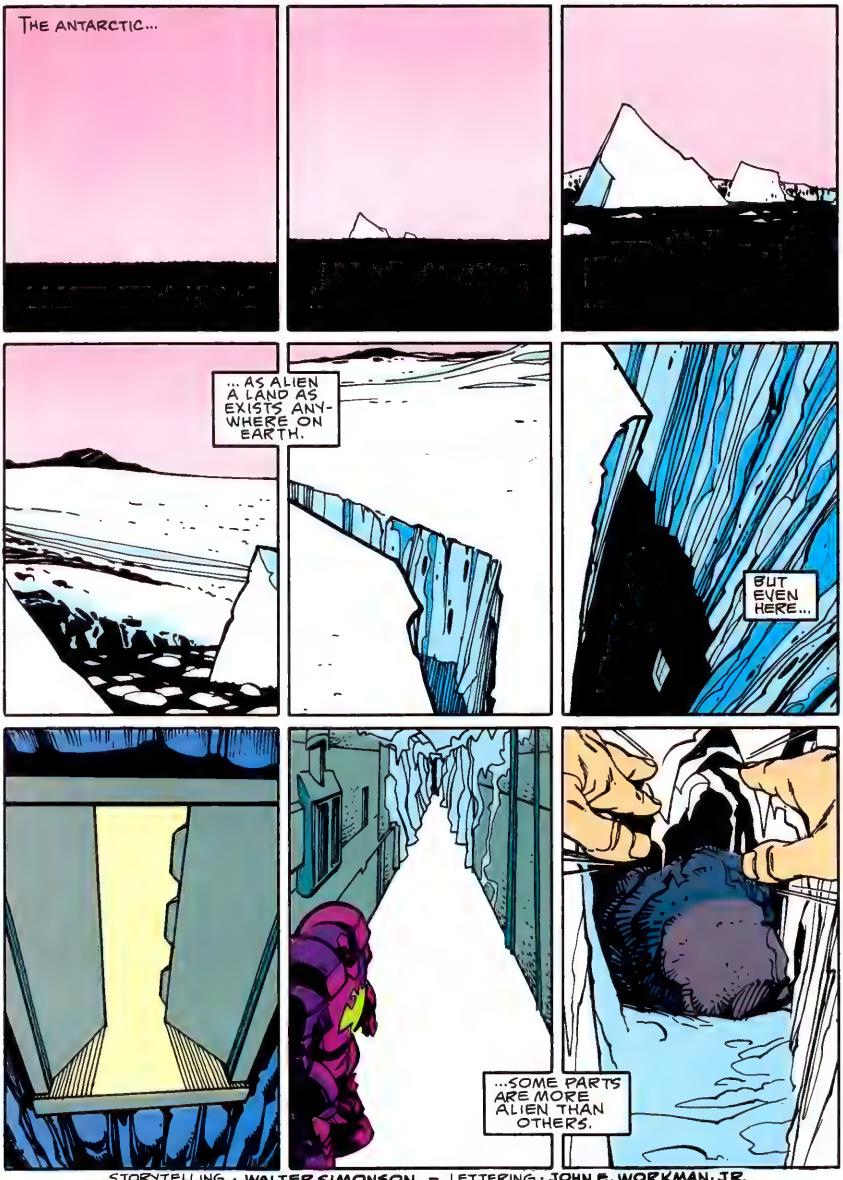

I SAW WHAT HAPPENED, VRIL DOX.
FORTUNATE THAT LYRISSA MALLOR STOPPED YOU. TO EXECUTE BRAINIAC UNDER THOSE TERMS WOULD BE MURDER!
I AM GRATEFUL FOR YOUR AID, SUPERMAN--
BUT DON'T PRESUME TO LECTURE ME ON MORALS! YOU ARE WELCOME TO FOLLOW YOUR OWN CODE OF CONDUCT! I WILL ACT AS I SEE FIT!
THE QUESTION REMAINS: WHAT DO WE DO WITH HIM NOW?
HMM. MAYBE I CAN--
YOU WILL DO NOTHING, SUPERMAN!
NOT WHILE MY MIND IS MY GREATEST WEAPON!
OH, GREAT! DOZENS OF 'EM!
48

THEY'RE ONLY MENTAL PROJECTIONS!
TELE-PATH! FIND ME THE REAL ONE!
I...CANNOT! THERE IS TOO MUCH CONFUSION-- MY SENSES ARE OVER-WHELMED!
CRAACK!
OWWW! STRATA, YOU BIG GALOOT!
NOT IF I CAN HELP IT!
HEADS UP, YELLOWBELLY! YA AIN'T RUNNIN' AWAY THIS TIME!
LOOK! BRAINIAC'S SHIP! HE HAD IT HIDDEN IN THE PALACE TOWER!
HE'S GOING TO GET AWAY!


LADY QUARK--LAR GAND! WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?
STOP HIM, DAMN YOU!
FOLLOW IF YOU CAN, FOOLS--INTO WARP-SPACE!
HA HA HAH HA HAH HA HA
LOBO--THAT'S ENOUGH! GET OFF OF HIM!
AW, DON'T SWEAT IT, BOSS, NOBODY WINS 'EM ALL.
'CEPT ME, OF COURSE!
WHAT'S THE USE OF EVEN TRYING...?
DO YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU'VE DONE? BRAINIAC HAS ESCAPED--BECAUSE OF YOUR MINDLESS BELLIGERENCE!
DON'T TAKE IT TOO HARD. SOMEDAY BRAINIAC WILL FACE JUSTICE. I PROMISE YOU THAT.
THANKS FOR THE HELP. MAYBE YOU'RE NOT AS BAD AS I THOUGHT.
50

YOU SAID IT, VRIL! WE'D BE GLAD TO HAVE YOU ON THE TEAM, SUPERMAN!
AND YOU, LOBO?
NO WAY, SQUAREJAW! THE DAY ONE OF US BEATS THE OTHER TO A BLOODY PULP, THAT'S THE DAY I SHAKE WITH YOU!
YOU HAVE TO ADMIT, VRIL-- IT WAS WRONG TO PROGRAM THE COLUANS TO OBEY YOU.
ON THE CONTRARY. IF I HADN'T, BRAINIAC WOULD HAVE ENSLAVED THE WHOLE PLANET!
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND, VRIL--ALL TYRANTS ARE THE SAME! NO ONE WHO ENFORCES HIS OWN RULES IS ANY BETTER THAN THE OTHERS OF HIS KIND!
PERHAPS... I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN.
THINK ABOUT IT. THAT'S ALL I ASK.
YES, I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN, SUPERMAN.
BUT YOU'RE WRONG!
51


SAFE JOURNEY, SUPERMAN!
THANKS FOR THE SHIP, VRIL DOX--UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN.
IT MAY BE HARD TO ACCEPT, VRIL--BUT RATHER YOUR FATHER ESCAPE JUSTICE A HUNDRED TIMES THAN L.E.G.I.O.N. FORGETS THE NOBLE AIMS ON WHICH WE ARE FOUNDED!
BLEEDING HEART RUBBISH!
HOW MANY THOUSANDS WILL SUFFER BECAUSE WE LET HIM ESCAPE? HOW MANY THOUSANDS WILL NEEDLESSLY DIE?
I... KNOW. I AM SORRY.
I'M NOT. I FEEL THAT I'VE MATURED. AS IF... MY CHILDHOOD HAS FINALLY ENDED.
I KNOW MY QUEST FOR JUSTICE WAS TAINTED WITH DESIRE FOR REVENGE. I ALSO KNOW THAT IT DOES NOT MATTER.
AND I KNOW THAT THE NEXT TIME WE MEET...
...I WILL KILL MY FATHER!
THE END



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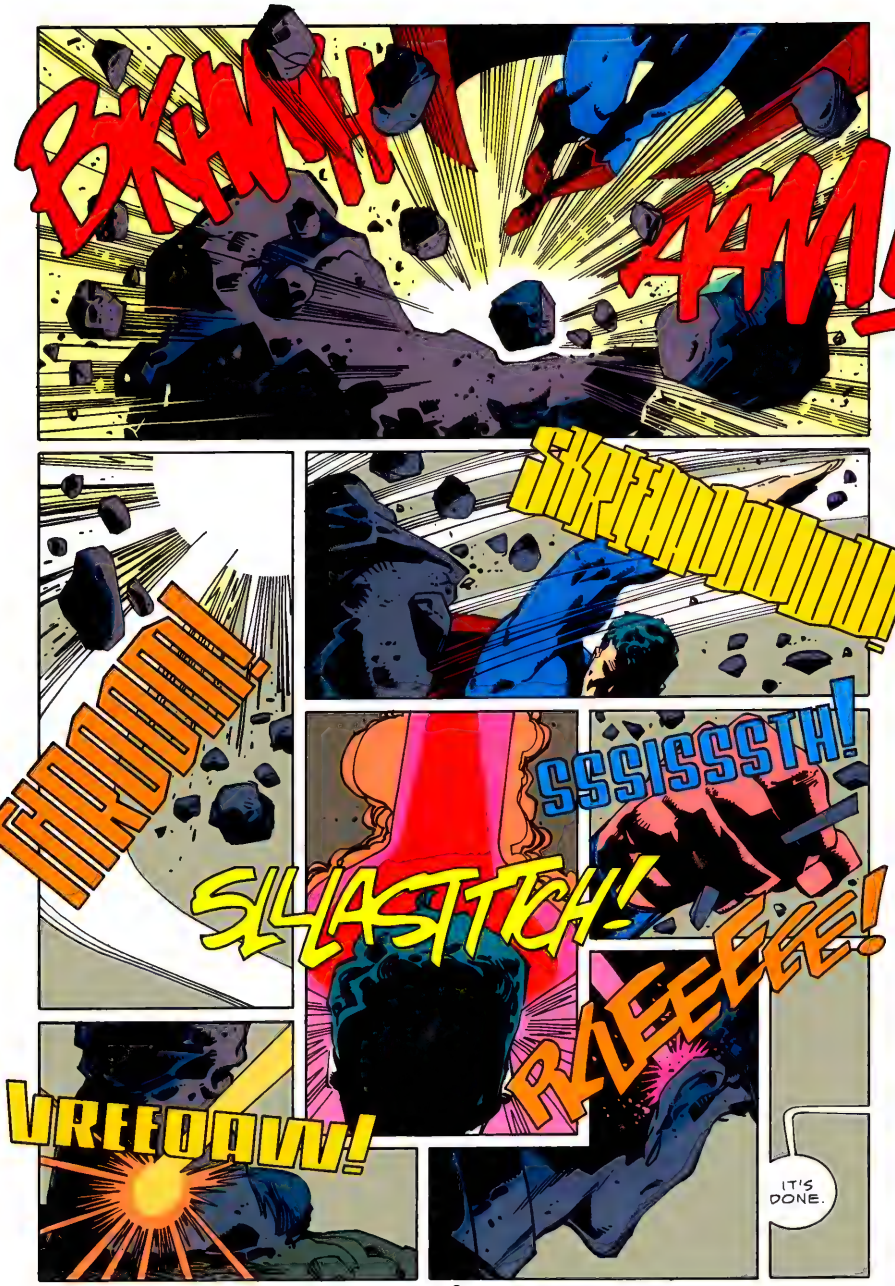
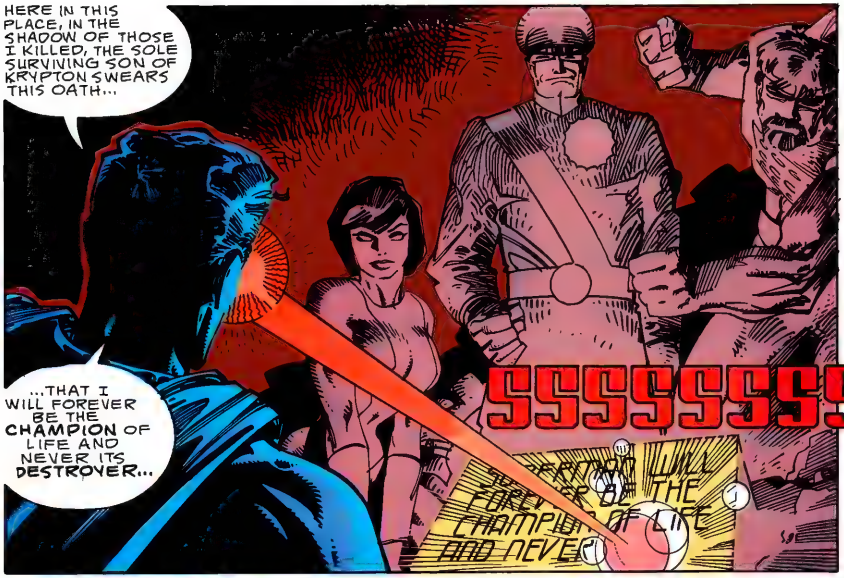
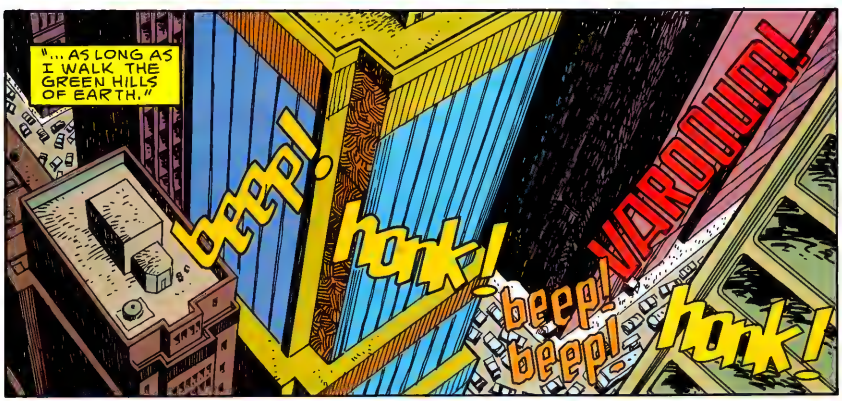

BKAM!!
AAM!
SKREEAAA

THE SAND MAN
ZAORA. ZOD. QUEX-UL.
KRYPTON'S GREATEST CRIMINALS. THEY WILL STAND VIGILANT FOREVER IN MY FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE...
...RELENTLESS KILLERS WHO ACCUSE THEIR EXECUTIONER OF THE CRIME OF MURDER!
THE CLERIC TAUGHT ME TO LIVE WITH MY GUILT...
...BUT THIS MEMORIAL WILL INSURE THAT I NEVER FORGET IT.
THERE ARE OTHER WAYS TO SERVE THE CAUSE OF JUSTICE, AND I WILL FIND THEM.

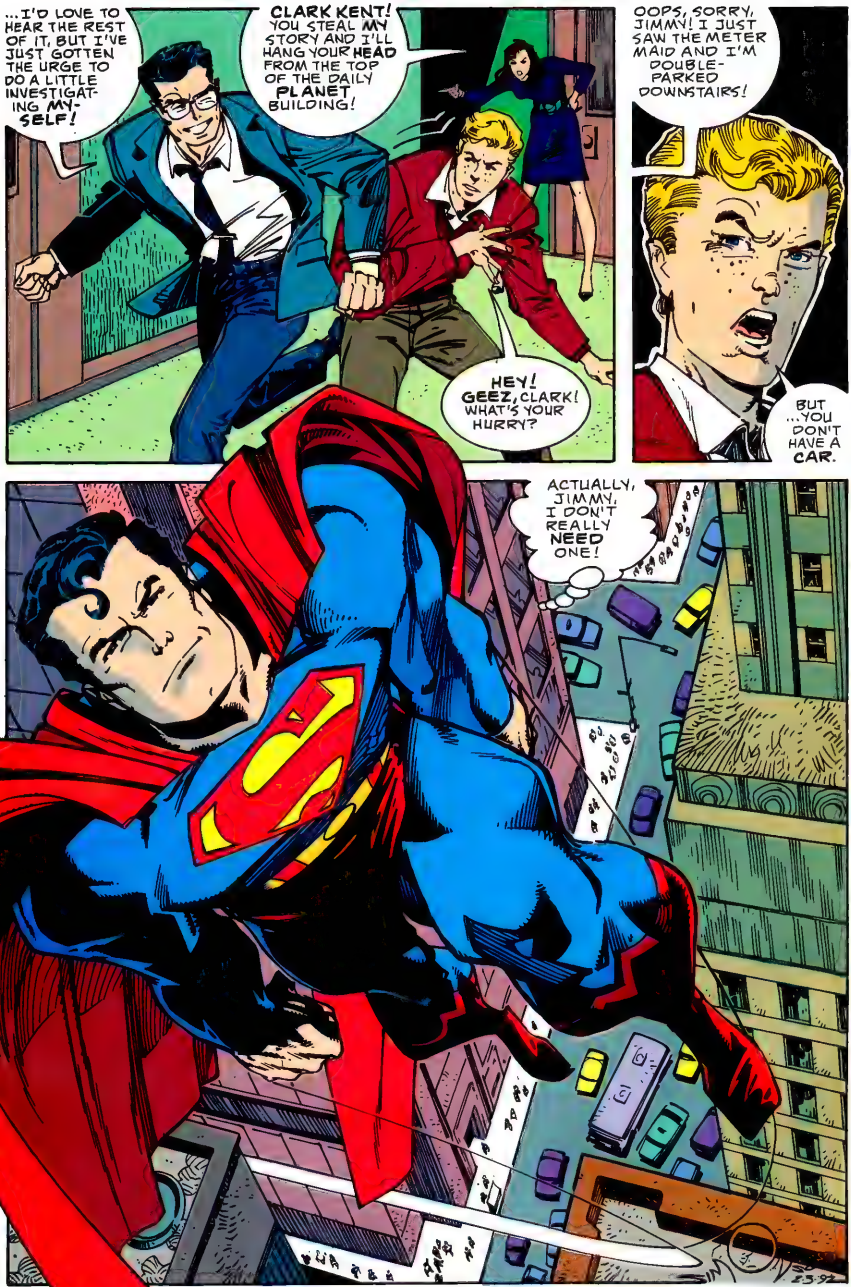

HERE IN THIS PLACE, IN THE SHADOW OF THOSE I KILLED, THE SOLE SURVIVING SON OF KRYPTON SWEARS THIS OATH...
...THAT I WILL FOREVER BE THE CHAMPION OF LIFE AND NEVER ITS DESTROYER...
SSSSSSSS

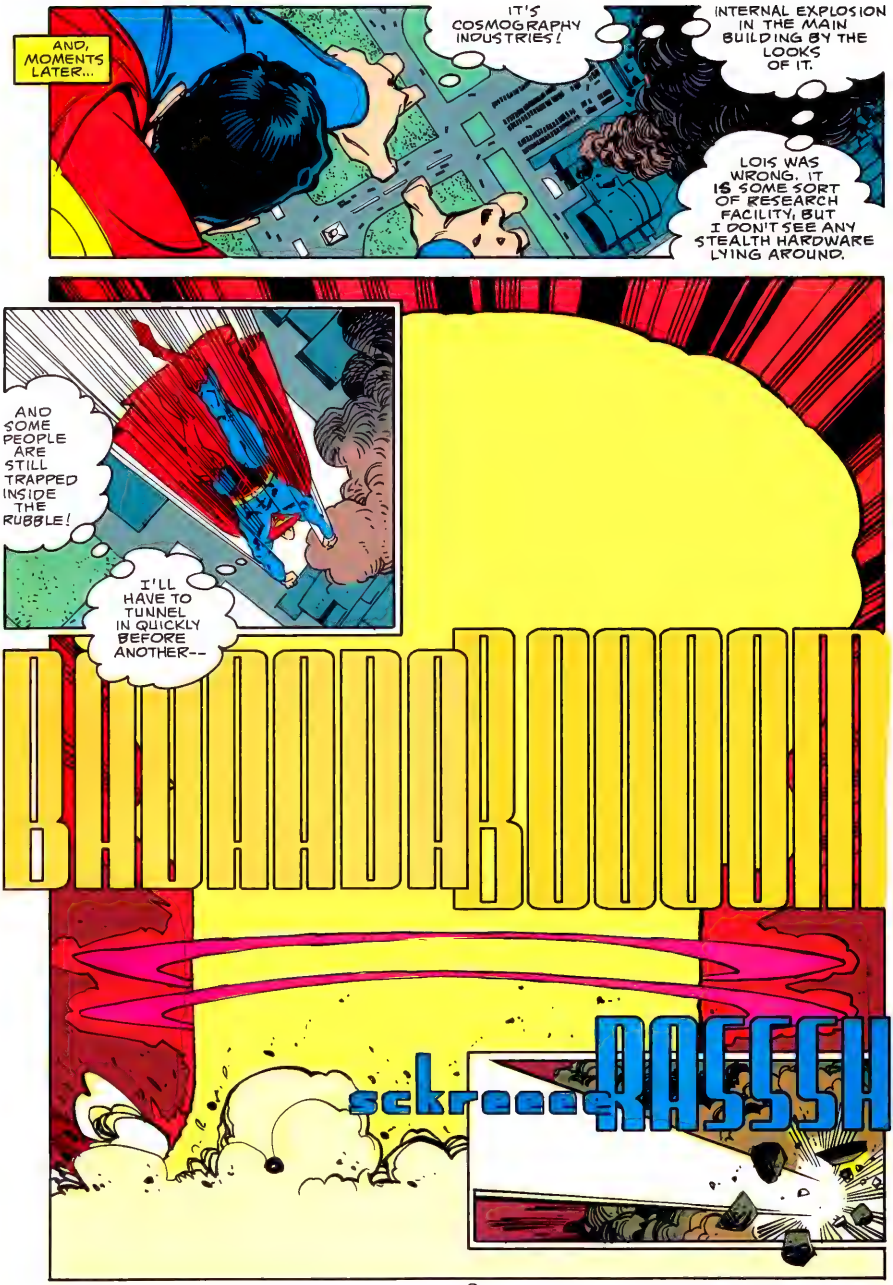

"...AS LONG AS I WALK THE GREEN HILLS OF EARTH."
beep!
honk!
beep! beep!
VAROOOOM!
honk!

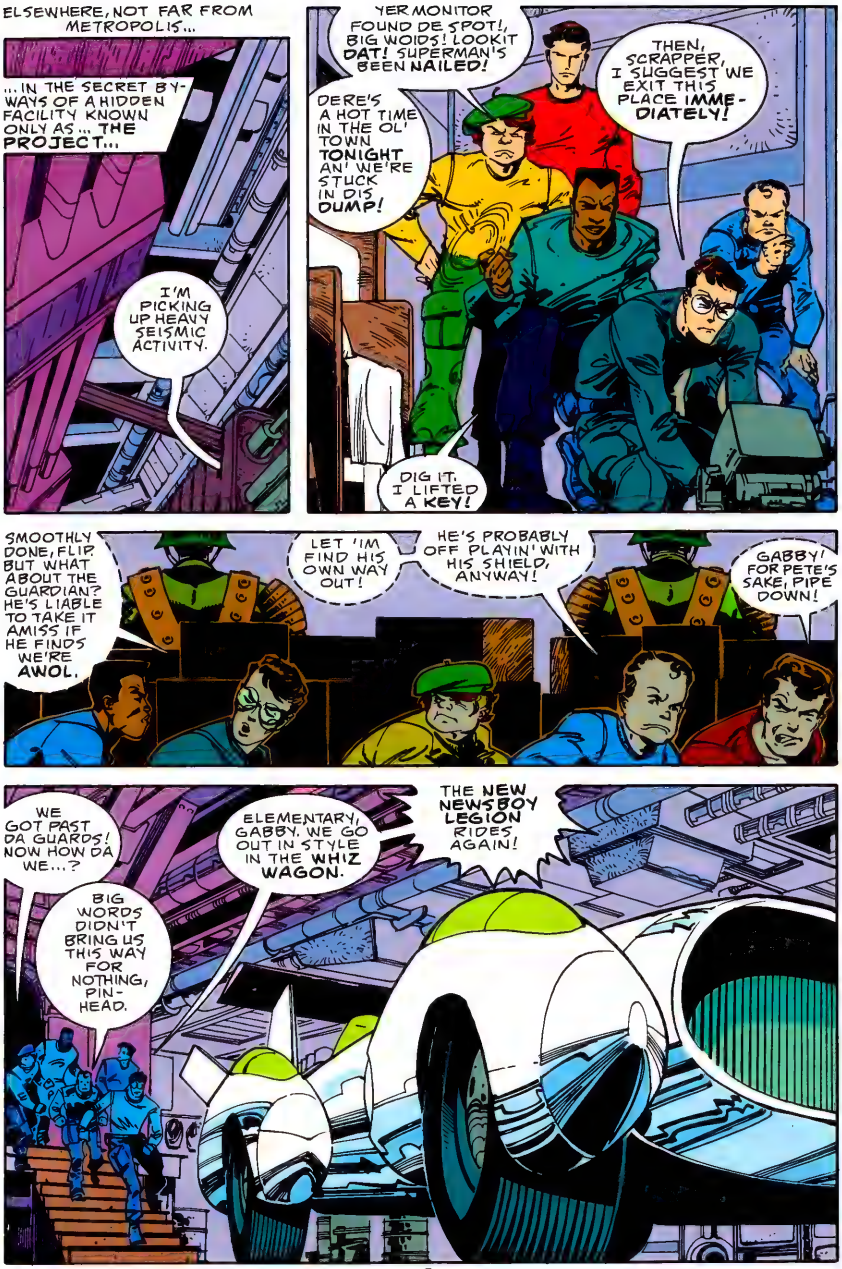
click clack click clack

?
creeeek
BROOM CLOSET
CLARK?
UH? OH...UH ...HI, LOIS.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING ?
THOUGHT THIS WAS THE MEN'S ROOM.
YOU'RE NOT LOSING YOUR MIND AGAIN, ARE YOU, CLARK?
UH...NO, I DON'T THINK SO.
I KEEP BUMPING INTO FOLKS WHEN I GO THROUGH THEM.
WHERE'RE YOU RUSHING OFF TO IN SUCH A HURRY?
I JUST DON'T SEEM TO HAVE MUCH LUCK WITH DOORS.
GOT A HOT LEAD. YOU KNOW COS-MOGRAPHY INDUSTRIES, HEADQUARTERED OUT BEYOND THE CITY LIMITS ON CORPORATE DRIVE?
SURE. THE VERY HUSH-HUSH OUTFIT?
THAT'S THEM. WELL, I'VE HEARD THAT THEY MAY BE WORKING ON STEALTH-FIGHTER TECHNOLOGY!
NO KIDDING !
NOT ONLY THAT, BUT NOBODY SEEMS TO KNOW WHO OWNS THEM!
AND I SEE MS. BRIGHT-EYES HAS SOME IDEAS.

"YOU BETTER BELIEVE IT. WHATEVER'S GOING ON OUT THERE, I'LL BET MY HAT IT'S CROOKED!"
ROTATE CLOCKWISE 7 MICRONS. DOWN 3. GOOD.
THE THIN SECTION OF THE SAMPLE IS CORRECTLY ALIGNED.
POWER TO ONE-THIRD.
VACUUM 99.99% AND INCREASING.
ELECTRON MICRO-PROBE ON.
POWER TO TWO-THIRDS.
DOCTOR MILLER! WE'RE REGISTERING UNUSUAL... EXCITATION OF THE CRYSTAL STRUCTURE!
I THINK WE SHOULD SHUT DOWN BEFORE--
NONSENSE, SMOOT! THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
FULL POWER!
KAA-BAAOUM!
BAAOUM!
BAAOUM!
PERSONALLY I THINK THAT--
UH... LISTEN, LOIS...


...I'D LOVE TO HEAR THE REST OF IT, BUT I'VE JUST GOTTEN THE URGE TO DO A LITTLE INVESTIGATING MYSELF!
CLARK KENT! YOU STEAL MY STORY AND I'LL HANG YOUR HEAD FROM THE TOP OF THE DAILY PLANET BUILDING!
HEY! GEEZ, CLARK! WHAT'S YOUR HURRY?
OOPS, SORRY, JIMMY! I JUST SAW THE METER MAID AND I'M DOUBLE-PARKED DOWNSTAIRS!
BUT ...YOU DON'T HAVE A CAR.
ACTUALLY, JIMMY, I DON'T REALLY NEED ONE!


AND, MOMENTS LATER...
IT'S COSMOGRAPHY INDUSTRIES!
INTERNAL EXPLOSION IN THE MAIN BUILDING BY THE LOOKS OF IT.
LOIS WAS WRONG. IT IS SOME SORT OF RESEARCH FACILITY, BUT I DON'T SEE ANY STEALTH HARDWARE LYING AROUND.
AND SOME PEOPLE ARE STILL TRAPPED INSIDE THE RUBBLE!
I'LL HAVE TO TUNNEL IN QUICKLY BEFORE ANOTHER--
BADADABOOOM
sckreeee
RASSSH!

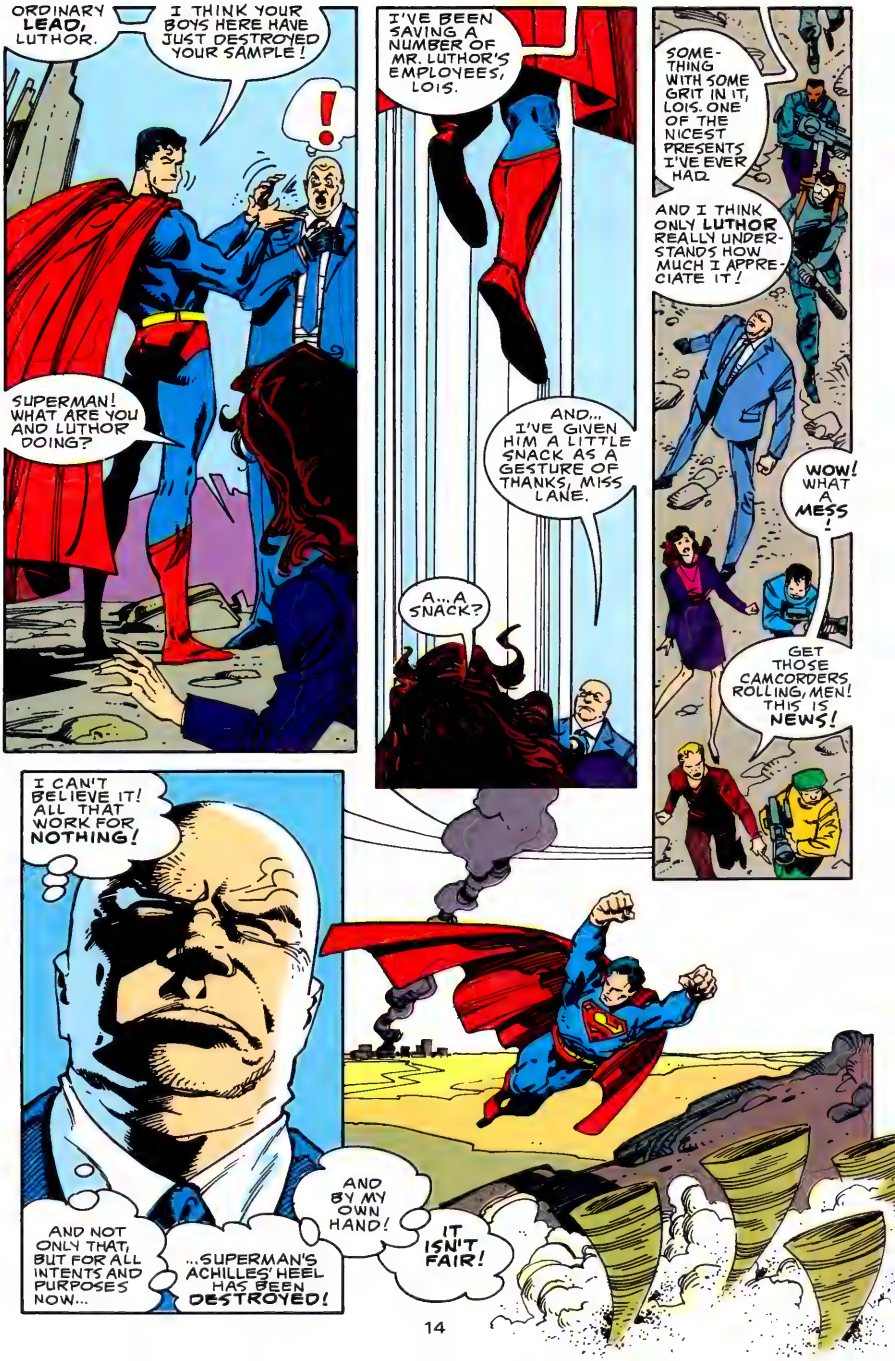

ELSEWHERE, NOT FAR FROM METROPOLIS...
...IN THE SECRET BY-WAYS OF A HIDDEN FACILITY KNOWN ONLY AS... THE PROJECT...
I'M PICKING UP HEAVY SEISMIC ACTIVITY.
YER MONITOR FOUND DE SPOT!, BIG WOIDS! LOOKIT DAT! SUPERMAN'S BEEN NAILED!
DERE'S A HOT TIME IN THE OL' TOWN TONIGHT AN' WE'RE STUCK IN DIS DUMP!
THEN, SCRAPPER, I SUGGEST WE EXIT THIS PLACE IMMEDIATELY!
DIG IT. I LIFTED A KEY!
SMOOTHLY DONE, FLIP. BUT WHAT ABOUT THE GUARDIAN? HE'S LIABLE TO TAKE IT AMISS IF HE FINDS WE'RE AWOL.
LET 'IM FIND HIS OWN WAY OUT!
HE'S PROBABLY OFF PLAYIN' WITH HIS SHIELD, ANYWAY!
GABBY! FOR PETE'S SAKE, PIPE DOWN!
WE GOT PAST DA GUARDS! NOW HOW DA WE...?
BIG WORDS DIDN'T BRING US THIS WAY FOR NOTHING, PIN-HEAD.
ELEMENTARY, GABBY. WE GO OUT IN STYLE IN THE WHIZ WAGON.
THE NEW NEWSBOY LEGION RIDES AGAIN!

"AND THE FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS IS TO COLLECT OUR FORMER FEARLESS LEADER!"
I DON'T KNOW, LOIS. CLARK DOESN'T SEEM ANY SPACIER TO ME THAN USUAL.
MAYBE HE'S JUST GOT A CRUSH ON A CERTAIN LADY REPORTER.
OR IS IT THE OTHER WAY AROUND?
LISTEN, SMART GUY, I HAPPEN TO KNOW...
SKREEEEEE
JIMMY?
EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE!
MOVE IT, OLSEN! TIME'S A-WASTIN' AND BIG THINGS ARE HAPPENIN' OUT AT COSMOGRAPHY INDUSTRIES!
SCRAPPER! AND THE REST OF THE GUYS! TROUBLE?
?
WADDYA THINK? SUPERMAN'S BEEN HANDED A CANCELLATION NOTICE, ALREADY! C'MON!
I'M IN, GABBY! GUN IT!
OH NO YOU DON'T, CUB REPORTER OLSEN!
THIS SOUNDS LIKE MY STORY...
...AND IF YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING TO STEAL IT LIKE THIS, YOU'VE GOT ANOTHER THINK COMING!
VAROOOOUM!

"YOUR HEAD'S GOING TO LOOK MIGHTY HANDSOME UP THERE NEXT TO CLARK'S!"
UHHHHHH! INCREDIBLE! THE FORCE OF THE EXPLOSION ACTUALLY DROVE ME INTO THE ROCK!
BUT I'M ALREADY RECOVERING AND THERE ARE STILL SURVIVORS TO BE RESCUED!
FWUP!
RIKTPP!
WHSHOOOSH!
SKRAKK!
FWUP! FWUP! FWUP!

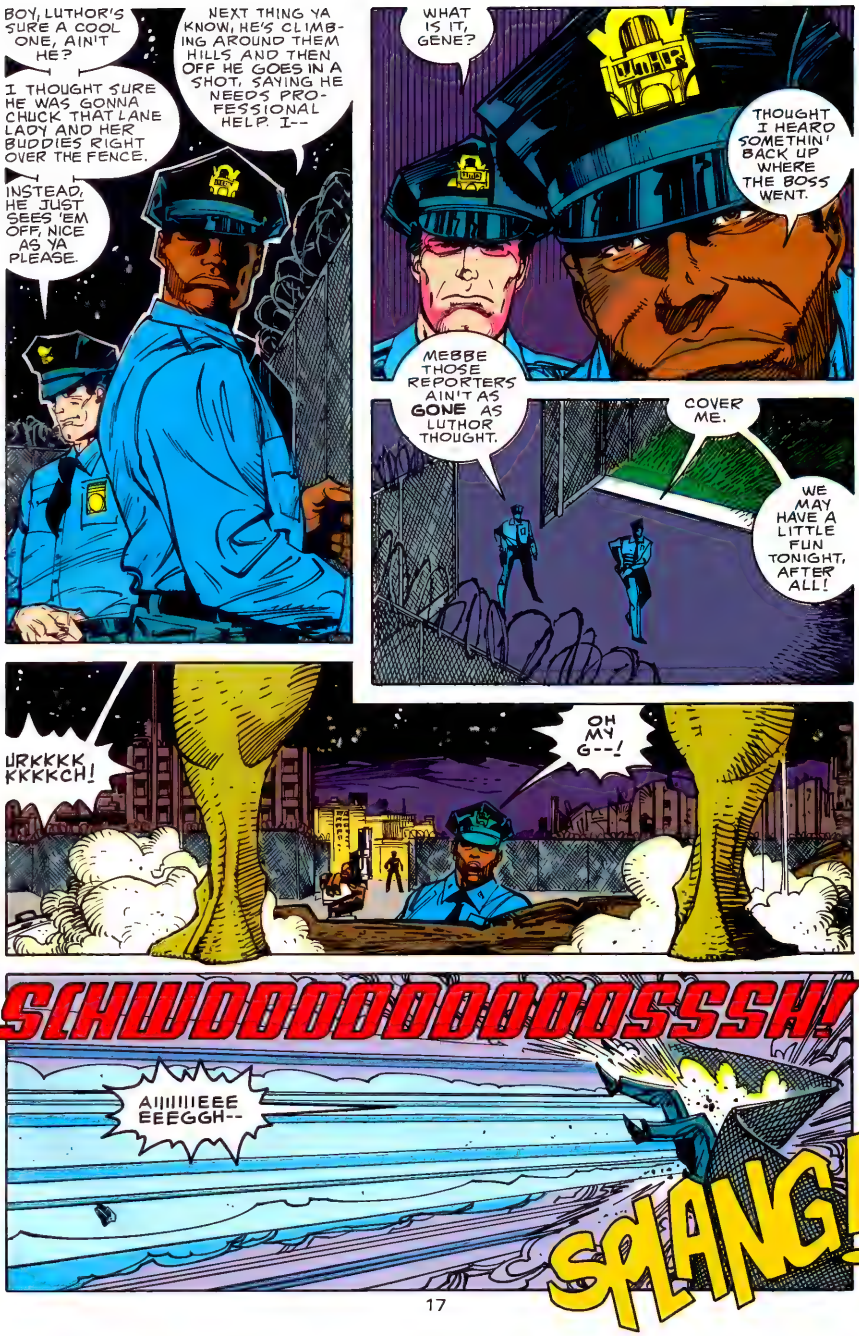
UNBELIEVABLE!
THE PLACE IS A SHAMBLES!
THIS IS PRIVATE PROPERTY, SUPER-MAN.
AND YOU ARE TRESPASS-ING.
GET OUT.
GIVE IT A REST, LUTHOR. PEOPLE ARE DESPERATELY IN NEED OF HELP HERE AND I'M NOT LEAVING UNTIL THEY GET IT.
VAROOOOSH!
BUT I'M BEGINNING TO UNDER-STAND.
THIS IS ONE OF YOUR LITTLE ENTER-PRISES.
THE "STEALTH TECHNOLOGY" RUMORS WERE PLANTED, BY YOU, TO COVER WHAT-EVER'S REALLY BEEN HAPPENING HERE.

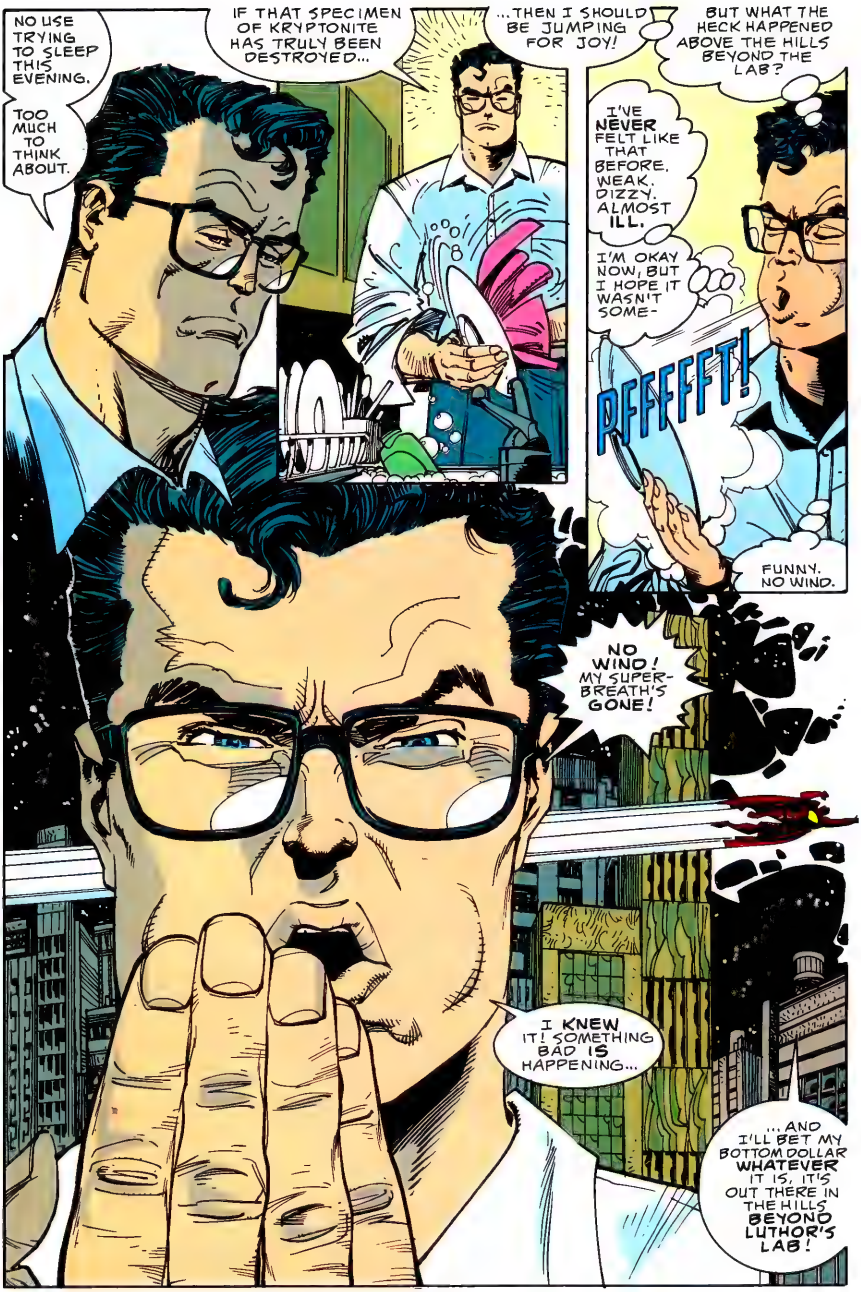
VERY GOOD, SUPERMAN. YOU MAY FOOL ME AND BECOME INTELLIGENT YET.
IF YOU LIVE LONG ENOUGH.
BUT I DOUBT IT. WE'RE STUDYING SOMETHING QUITE SPECIAL HERE, SUPERMAN!
LET ME SHOW YOU.
LOOK! IT'S SUPERMAN! AND LEX LUTHOR!
WHA--? BUT THAT'S KRYPTONITE!
A-PLUS.
AND SOON WE SHALL BE ABLE TO SYNTHESIZE IT!
NOW GET OUT. OR WOULD YOU CARE TO TEST AN ORIGINAL SAMPLE!
WHAT--?!
NOT PARTICULARLY, LUTHOR. BUT I MIGHT LIKE TO TASTE IT!
CHOMP! CHOMP! CHOMP! GULP!
NEEDS SALT.
BUT...THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

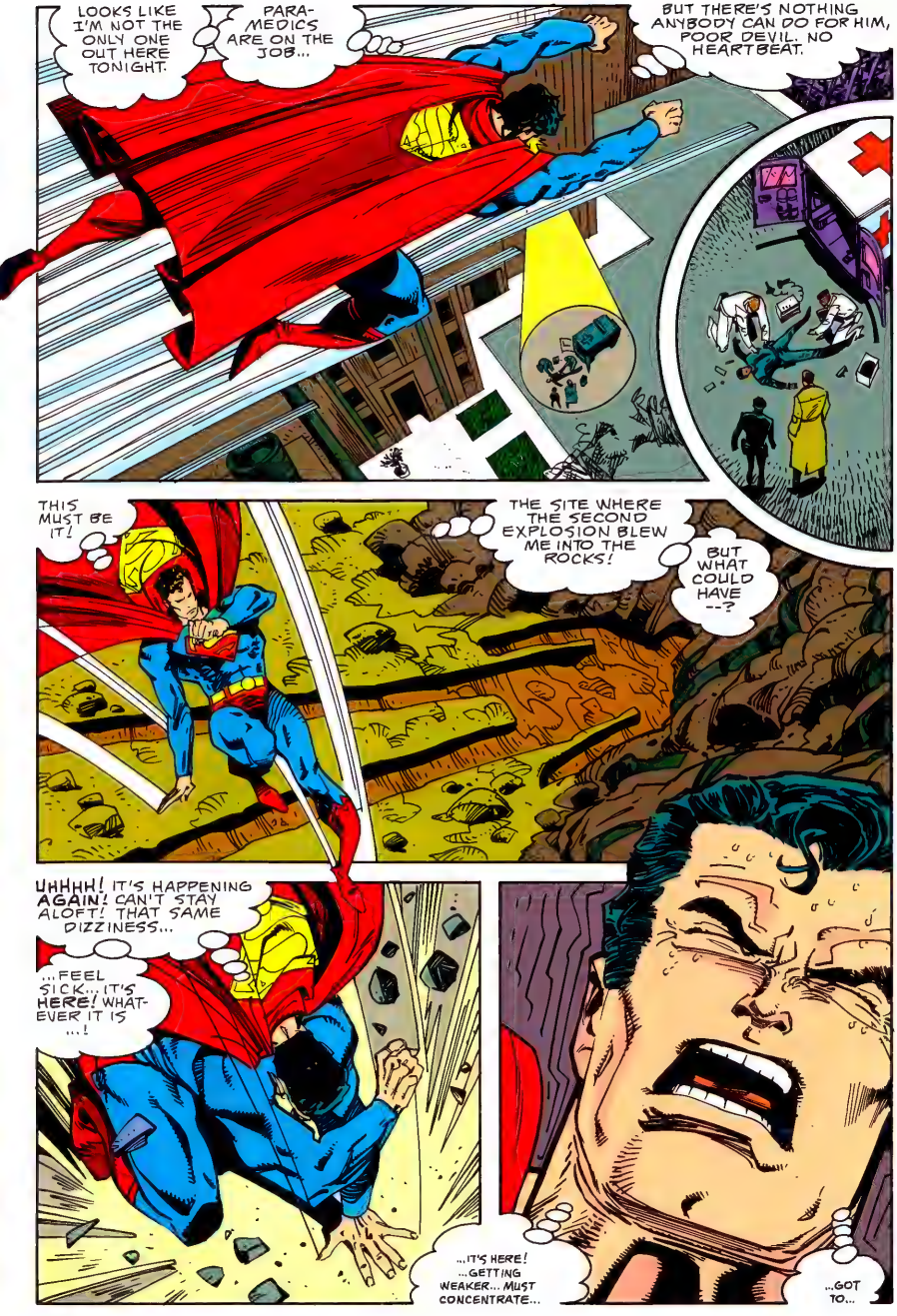

ORDINARY LEAD, LUTHOR.
I THINK YOUR BOYS HERE HAVE JUST DESTROYED YOUR SAMPLE!
!
SUPERMAN! WHAT ARE YOU AND LUTHOR DOING?
I'VE BEEN SAVING A NUMBER OF MR. LUTHOR'S EMPLOYEES, LOIS.
AND... I'VE GIVEN HIM A LITTLE SNACK AS A GESTURE OF THANKS, MISS LANE.
A... A SNACK?
SOME-THING WITH SOME GRIT IN IT, LOIS. ONE OF THE NICEST PRESENTS I'VE EVER HAD.
AND I THINK ONLY LUTHOR REALLY UNDER-STANDS HOW MUCH I APPRE-CIATE IT!
WOW! WHAT A MESS!
GET THOSE CAMCORDERS ROLLING, MEN! THIS IS NEWS!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! ALL THAT WORK FOR NOTHING!
AND NOT ONLY THAT, BUT FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES NOW...
...SUPERMAN'S ACHILLES' HEEL HAS BEEN DESTROYED!
AND BY MY OWN HAND!
IT ISN'T FAIR!

HOW IRONIC! ALL OF LUTHOR'S MONEY AND BRAINS BEHIND AN ATTEMPT TO CRIPPLE MY EFFECTIVENESS...
...AND NOT ONLY HAS HE FAILED, BUT HE'S DONE ME A POSITIVE...
...A POSITIVE... UHHHHHH...!
...CAN'T...
STRANGE. I FELT... DIZZY... FOR JUST A SECOND.
MAYBE SOME DELAYED REACTION FROM THAT EXPLOSION.
HE WAVERED! ONLY FOR A MOMENT, BUT HE WAVERED IN FLIGHT!
ABOVE THAT RIDGE!
PERHAPS I HAVEN'T LOST EVERYTHING YET!
...YOU'D CARE TO MAKE SOME STATEMENT TO THE PRESS, MR. LUTHOR...
SUCH AS: IS THIS IN FACT A LEXCORP HOLDING?
AND WHY HASN'T THIS FACT BEEN MADE PUBLIC BEFORE?
ARE YOU AND SUPERMAN WORKING ON SOME SECRET PROJECT HERE AT COSMO-GRAPHIC?
GUARDS, ESCORT THESE GOOD PEOPLE AND THEIR VEHICLE OFF THE PREMISES.
THEY WERE JUST LEAVING.

NIGHTFALL...
...WHEN THE JAWS OF HELL GAPE WIDE...
...AND SPIRITS OF EVIL WALK ABROAD IN THE LAND.
IT IS THE WITCHING HOUR.
URKKKKKKCH!

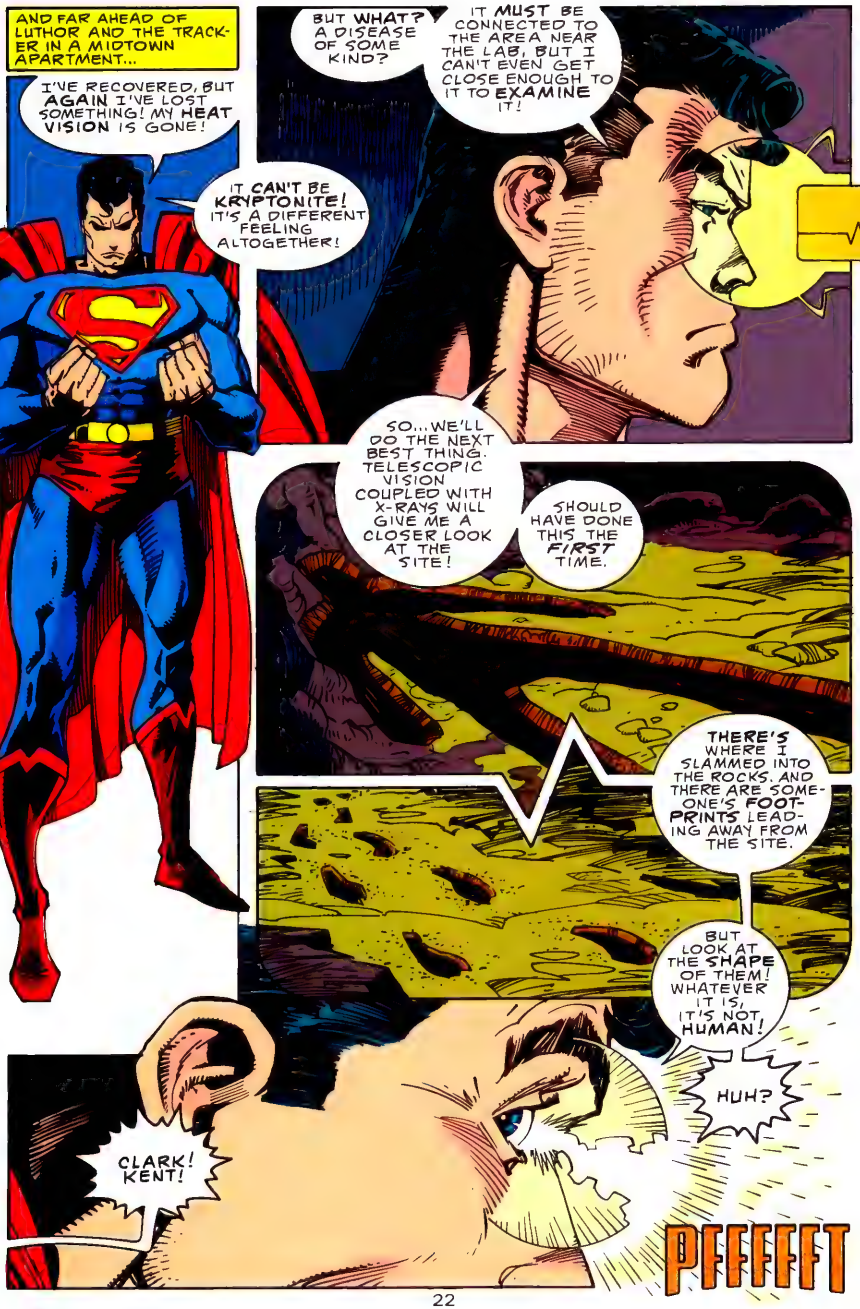

BOY, LUTHOR'S SURE A COOL ONE, AIN'T HE?
I THOUGHT SURE HE WAS GONNA CHUCK THAT LANE LADY AND HER BUDDIES RIGHT OVER THE FENCE.
INSTEAD, HE JUST SEES 'EM OFF, NICE AS YA PLEASE.
NEXT THING YA KNOW, HE'S CLIMBING AROUND THEM HILLS AND THEN OFF HE GOES IN A SHOT, SAYING HE NEEDS PROFESSIONAL HELP. I--
WHAT IS IT, GENE?
THOUGHT I HEARD SOMETHIN' BACK UP WHERE THE BOSS WENT.
MEBBE THOSE REPORTERS AIN'T AS GONE AS LUTHOR THOUGHT.
COVER ME.
WE MAY HAVE A LITTLE FUN TONIGHT, AFTER ALL!
URKKKK KKKKCH!
OH MY G--!
SCHWOOOOOOOOOSSSH!
AIIIIIIEEE EEEGGH--
SPLANG!


NO USE TRYING TO SLEEP THIS EVENING.
TOO MUCH TO THINK ABOUT.
IF THAT SPECIMEN OF KRYPTONITE HAS TRULY BEEN DESTROYED...
...THEN I SHOULD BE JUMPING FOR JOY!
BUT WHAT THE HECK HAPPENED ABOVE THE HILLS BEYOND THE LAB?
I'VE NEVER FELT LIKE THAT BEFORE. WEAK. DIZZY. ALMOST ILL.
I'M OKAY NOW, BUT I HOPE IT WASN'T SOME-
PFFFFFT!
FUNNY. NO WIND.
NO WIND! MY SUPER-BREATH'S GONE!
I KNEW IT! SOMETHING BAD IS HAPPENING...
...AND I'LL BET MY BOTTOM DOLLAR WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S OUT THERE IN THE HILLS BEYOND LUTHOR'S LAB!

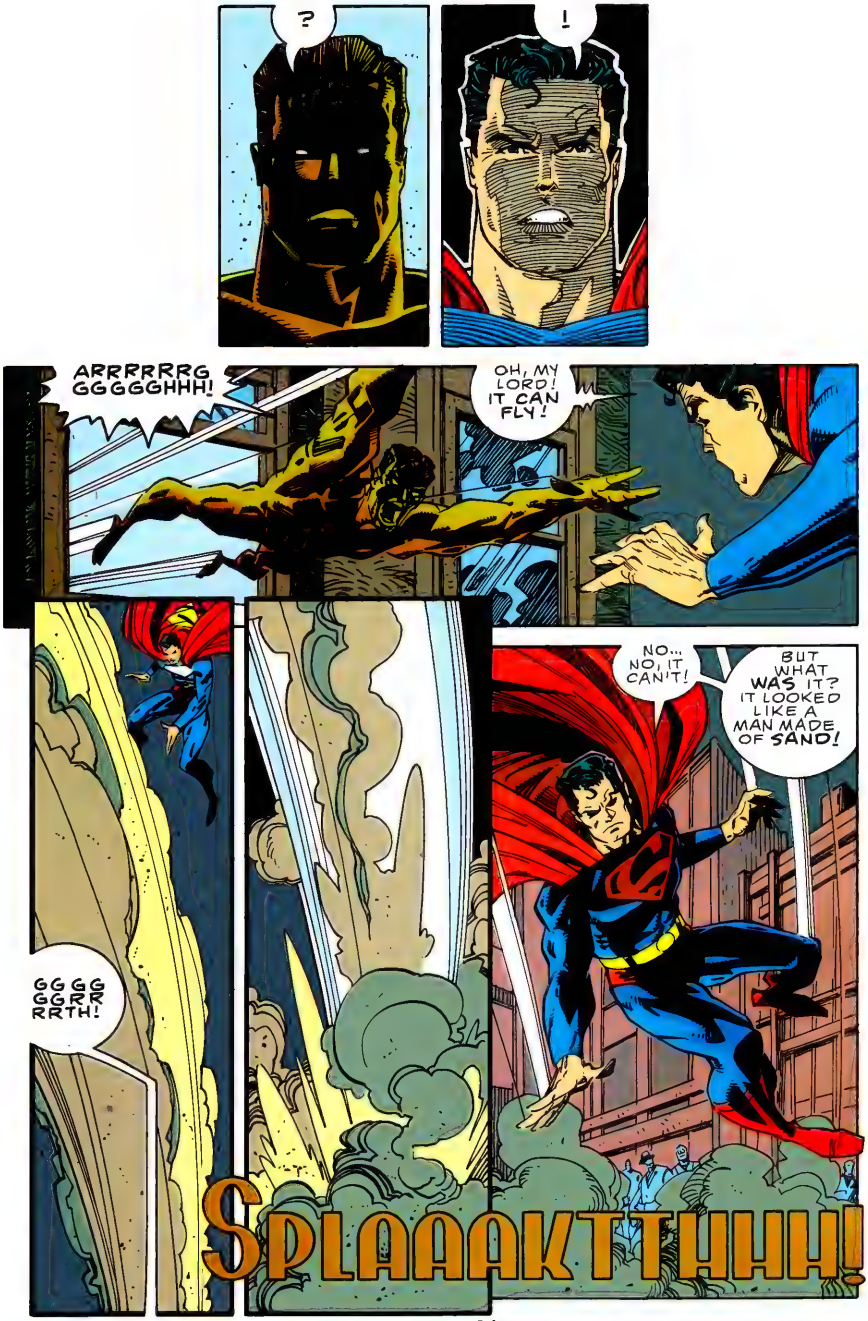

LOOKS LIKE I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE OUT HERE TONIGHT.
PARA-MEDICS ARE ON THE JOB...
BUT THERE'S NOTHING ANYBODY CAN DO FOR HIM, POOR DEVIL. NO HEARTBEAT.
THIS MUST BE IT!
THE SITE WHERE THE SECOND EXPLOSION BLEW ME INTO THE ROCKS!
BUT WHAT COULD HAVE --?
UHHHH! IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN! CAN'T STAY ALOFT! THAT SAME DIZZINESS...
...FEEL SICK... IT'S HERE! WHAT-EVER IT IS ...!
...IT'S HERE! ...GETTING WEAKER... MUST CONCENTRATE...
...GOT TO...

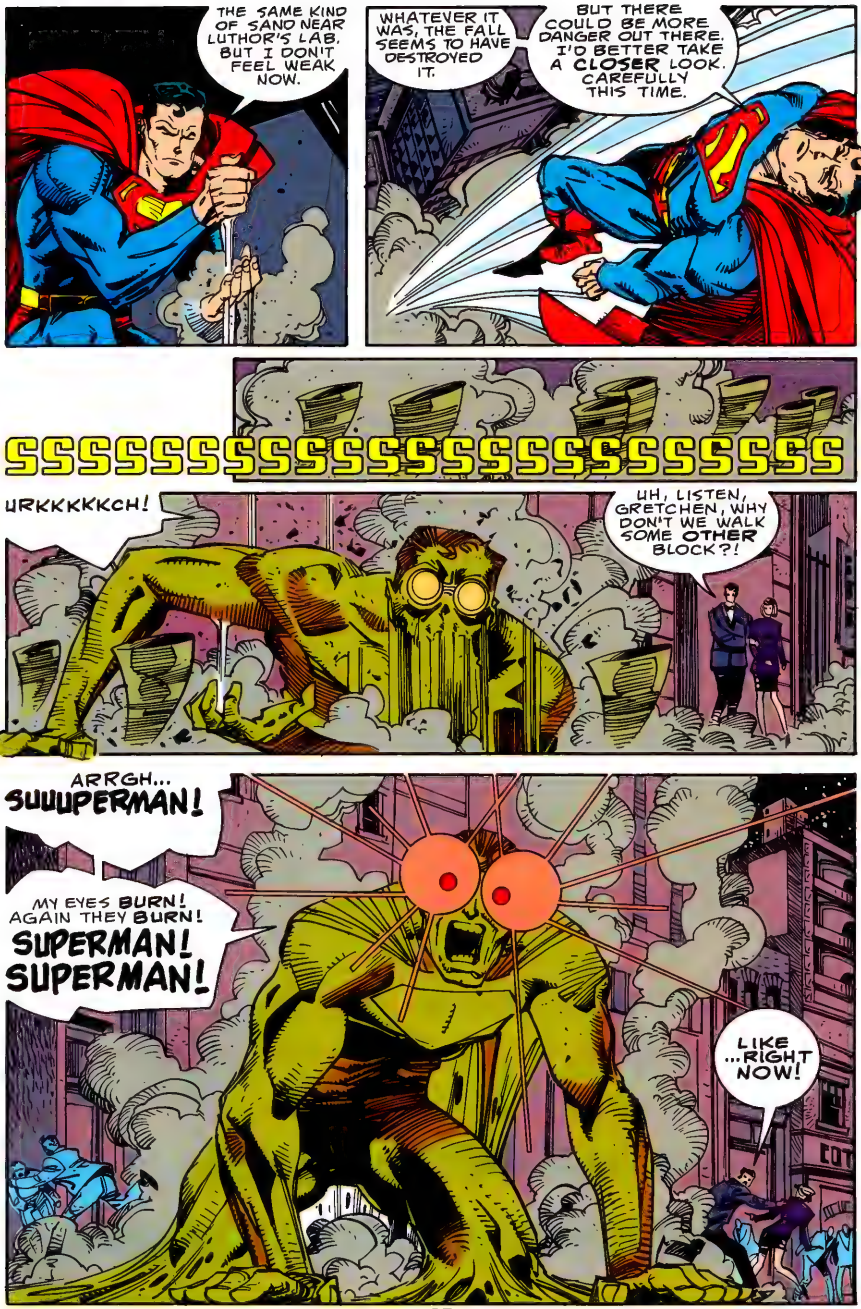
...GET CLEAR!
UHHHH.
HEAD... HEAD HURTS.
EYES BURN! BURN!
SKREEAOW!
UH? SOMEONE... COMING!
HELI...HELI... HELICOPTER!
FWUP! FWUP! FWUP! FWUP! FWUP!

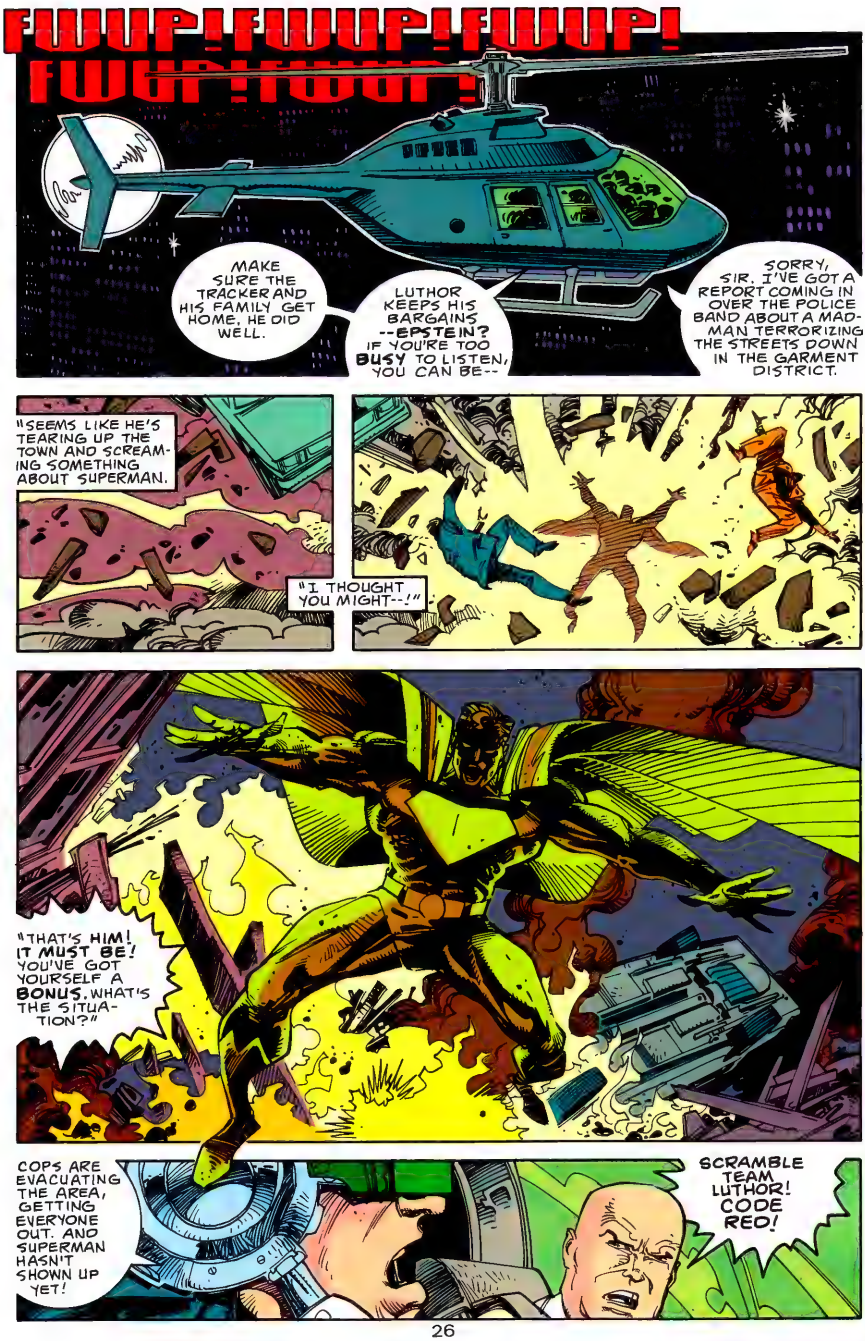
FWUP! FWUP! FWUP! FWUP!
END OF LINE, STACKY.
I PAY GOOD MONEY, MUCH TROUBLE, BRING TRACKER HERE.
WIFE, CHILDREN, MINE. YOU EARN THEM LIVES.
HAVE A LOOK-SEE. READ WRITING ON EARTH. TELLUM WHAT HAPPENED THIS PLACE.
UMMM. FLYIN' FELLER BIN HERE. NEW TRACKS. HIM FALL HANDS, KNEES.
HIM LEAVE. 'NOTHER ONE HERE. MAGIC FELLER, HIM RISE UP FROM ROCKS.
HIM BLOW YER FELLER DEAD. BURN ROCK, MAGIC FELLER. GONE. NOW. WALK-ABOUT.
SUPERMAN CAME BACK! AND FELL TO EARTH!
BUT THERE WAS SOME-ONE ELSE! SOMEBODY SUPERMAN COULDN'T HANDLE!
FINDUM MAGIC FELLER, STACKY! FINDUM QUICK QUICK AND YOU NOT BE SORRY. LOSE HIM AND...
NO FEAR, BOSS. MAGIC FELLER, HIM TRACK CLEAR AS DAY. HIM ONE SANDY FELLER!


AND FAR AHEAD OF LUTHOR AND THE TRACKER IN A MIDTOWN APARTMENT...
I'VE RECOVERED, BUT AGAIN I'VE LOST SOMETHING! MY HEAT VISION IS GONE!
IT CAN'T BE KRYPTONITE! IT'S A DIFFERENT FEELING ALTOGETHER!
BUT WHAT? A DISEASE OF SOME KIND?
IT MUST BE CONNECTED TO THE AREA NEAR THE LAB, BUT I CAN'T EVEN GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO IT TO EXAMINE IT!
SO...WE'LL DO THE NEXT BEST THING. TELESCOPIC VISION COUPLED WITH X-RAYS WILL GIVE ME A CLOSER LOOK AT THE SITE!
SHOULD HAVE DONE THIS THE FIRST TIME.
THERE'S WHERE I SLAMMED INTO THE ROCKS. AND THERE ARE SOMEONE'S FOOTPRINTS LEADING AWAY FROM THE SITE.
BUT LOOK AT THE SHAPE OF THEM! WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S NOT HUMAN!
HUH?
CLARK! KENT!
PFFFFFT

MY SUPER VISION'S COMPLETELY KAPUT! IT'S HERE! WHATEVER WAS THERE HAS FOUND ME!
AND IT KNOWS WHO I AM!
KERRATHAAMM!
CLARK! KENT! CLARK! KENT!


?
!
ARRRRRRG GGGGGHHH!
OH, MY LORD! IT CAN FLY!
NO... NO, IT CAN'T!
BUT WHAT WAS IT? IT LOOKED LIKE A MAN MADE OF SAND!
GGGG GGRR RRTH!
SPLAAAKTTHHH!


THE SAME KIND OF SAND NEAR LUTHOR'S LAB, BUT I DON'T FEEL WEAK NOW.
WHATEVER IT WAS, THE FALL SEEMS TO HAVE DESTROYED IT.
BUT THERE COULD BE MORE DANGER OUT THERE. I'D BETTER TAKE A CLOSER LOOK. CAREFULLY THIS TIME.
SSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSS
URKKKKKCH!
UH, LISTEN, GRETCHEN, WHY DON'T WE WALK SOME OTHER BLOCK?!
ARRGH... SUUUPERMAN!
MY EYES BURN! AGAIN THEY BURN! SUPERMAN! SUPERMAN!
LIKE ...RIGHT NOW!

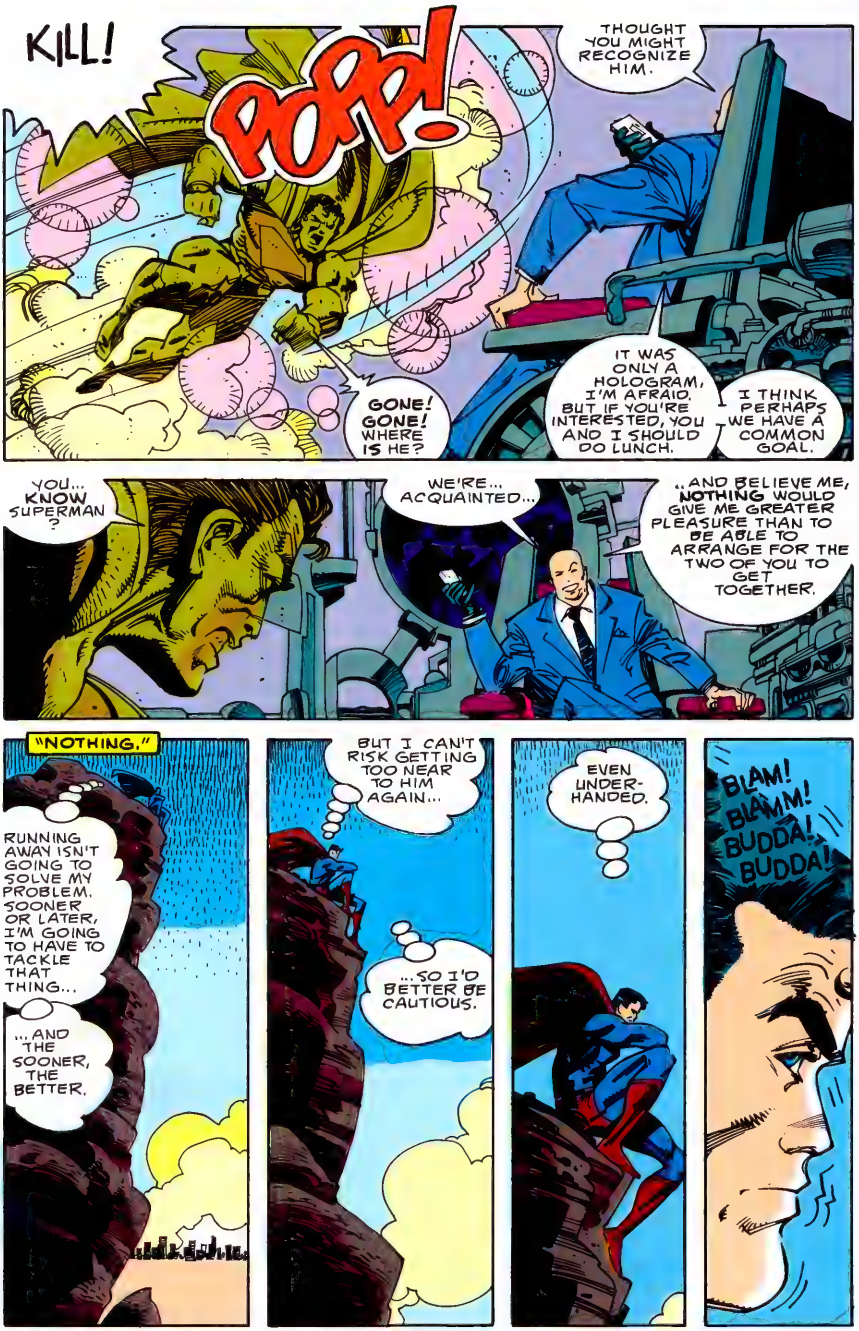

FWUP!FWUP!FWUP!
FWUP!FWUP!
MAKE SURE THE TRACKER AND HIS FAMILY GET HOME, HE DID WELL.
LUTHOR KEEPS HIS BARGAINS --EPSTEIN? IF YOU'RE TOO BUSY TO LISTEN, YOU CAN BE--
SORRY, SIR. I'VE GOT A REPORT COMING IN OVER THE POLICE BAND ABOUT A MADMAN TERRORIZING THE STREETS DOWN IN THE GARMENT DISTRICT.
"SEEMS LIKE HE'S TEARING UP THE TOWN AND SCREAMING SOMETHING ABOUT SUPERMAN.
"I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT--!"
"THAT'S HIM! IT MUST BE! YOU'VE GOT YOURSELF A BONUS. WHAT'S THE SITUATION?"
COPS ARE EVACUATING THE AREA, GETTING EVERYONE OUT. AND SUPERMAN HASN'T SHOWN UP YET!
SCRAMBLE TEAM LUTHOR! CODE RED!

"I HAVE AN IDEA."
ARRRRGHHH! WHERE SUPERMAN? WHERE?
I WANT HIM! I WANT HIM NOW!
SMMASCH!
KILL! KILL!
HUHH?
IT'S HIM, GREEN LEADER! HAS TO BE!
LOOK AT THAT TRAIL OF SAND HE'S LEAVING! STACKY WAS RIGHT!
WE'VE GOT HIM OUT-FLANKED!
THEN IT'S TIME TO EARN OUR BONUSES!
INITIATE FIRST STAGE!
SCKKKREEEOOOW!

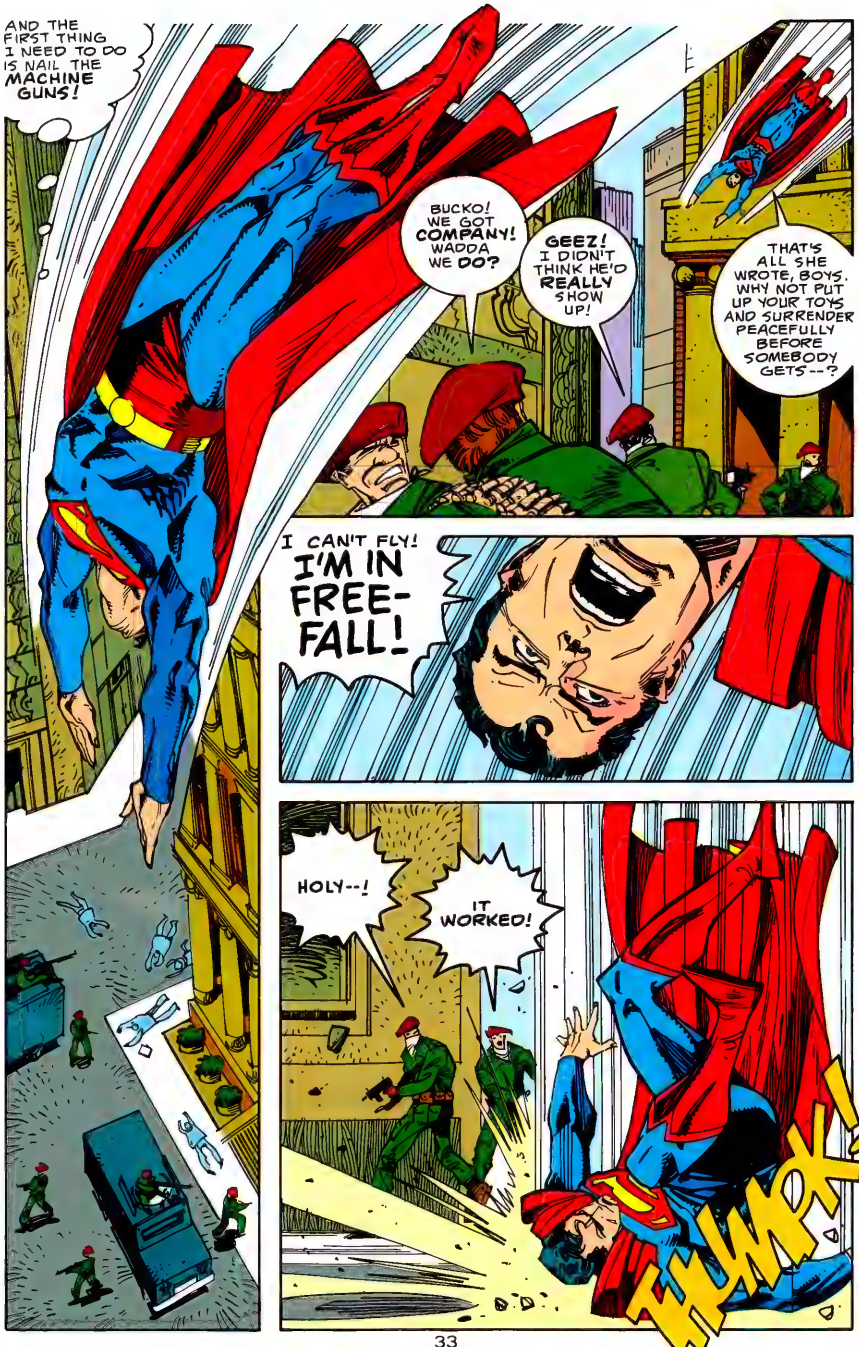
SPLAMM!
ARRR RRRK!
HE'S MOVING TO HIS RIGHT! GREEN TWO, DRIVE HIM BACK!
ROGER, GREEN LEADER!
BEEYOOWK
URRR RRRK! HURT! HURT!
NEED MORE POWER! MORE POWER! WHERE.. SUPERMAN?
MUST... MUST FIND SHELTER!
HE'S MOVING! STAY ON HIM! STAY ON HIM!
CHKRAKK!
SHELTER!
HE'S IN!
PHASE ONE COMPLETED!
INITIATE PHASE TWO!
SSLLLAMAMMM!

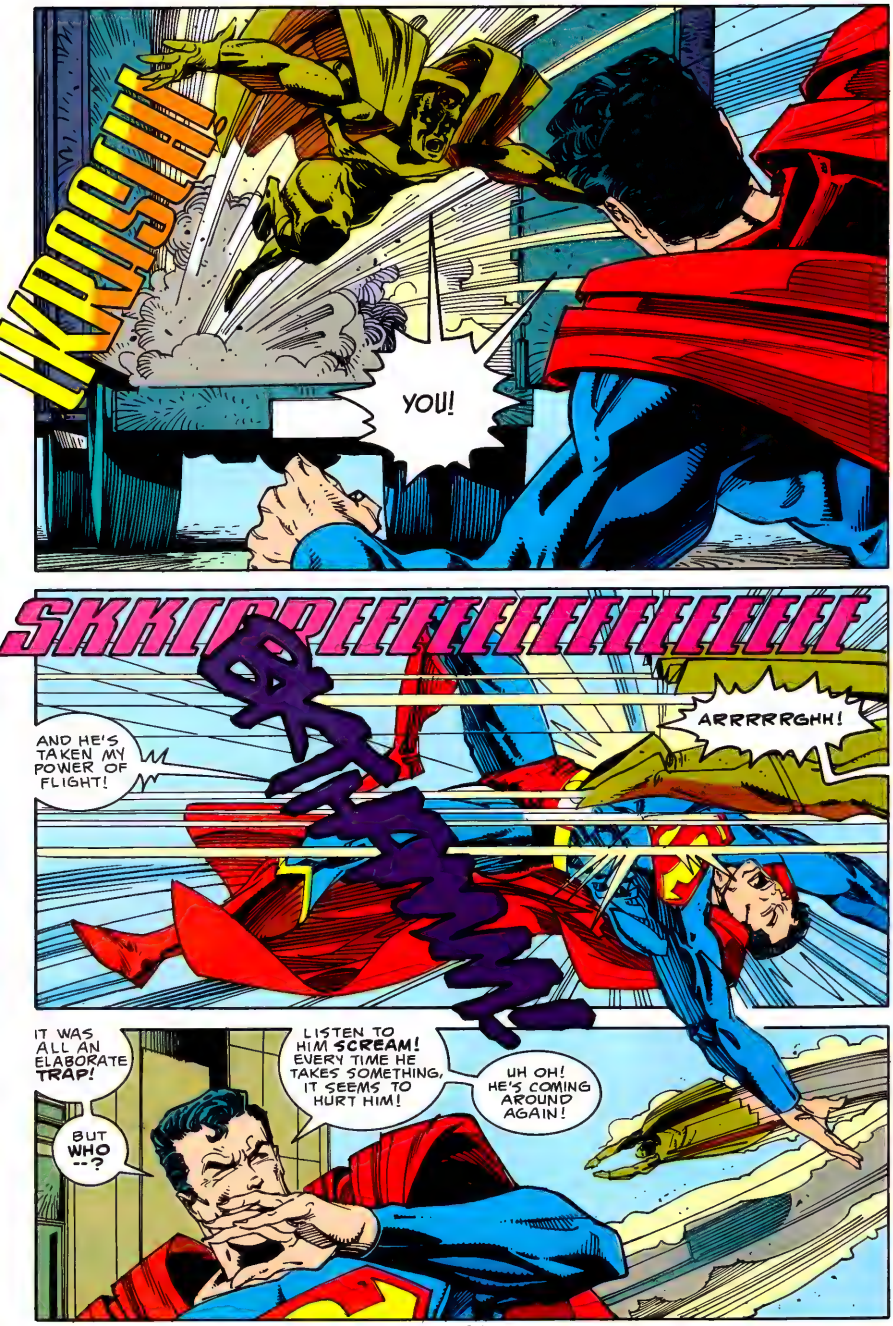
THWUK! THWUK! THWUK! THWUK!
SO WADDYA THINK? COPS?
NAH. A MOVIE.
DEFINITELY A MOVIE.
UHHH?
IT IS RATHER DARK IN HERE, IS IT NOT?
PERMIT ME TO TURN ON THE LIGHTS.
CLLIK!
UHHH... SUPERMAN ?
NOT QUITE. BUT I THINK I MAY BE ABLE TO ARRANGE SOMETHING IN THAT DIRECTION.
WELCOME TO MY PRIVATE CONFERENCE ROOM. MY NAME... IS LUTHOR.
CAN WE TALK?

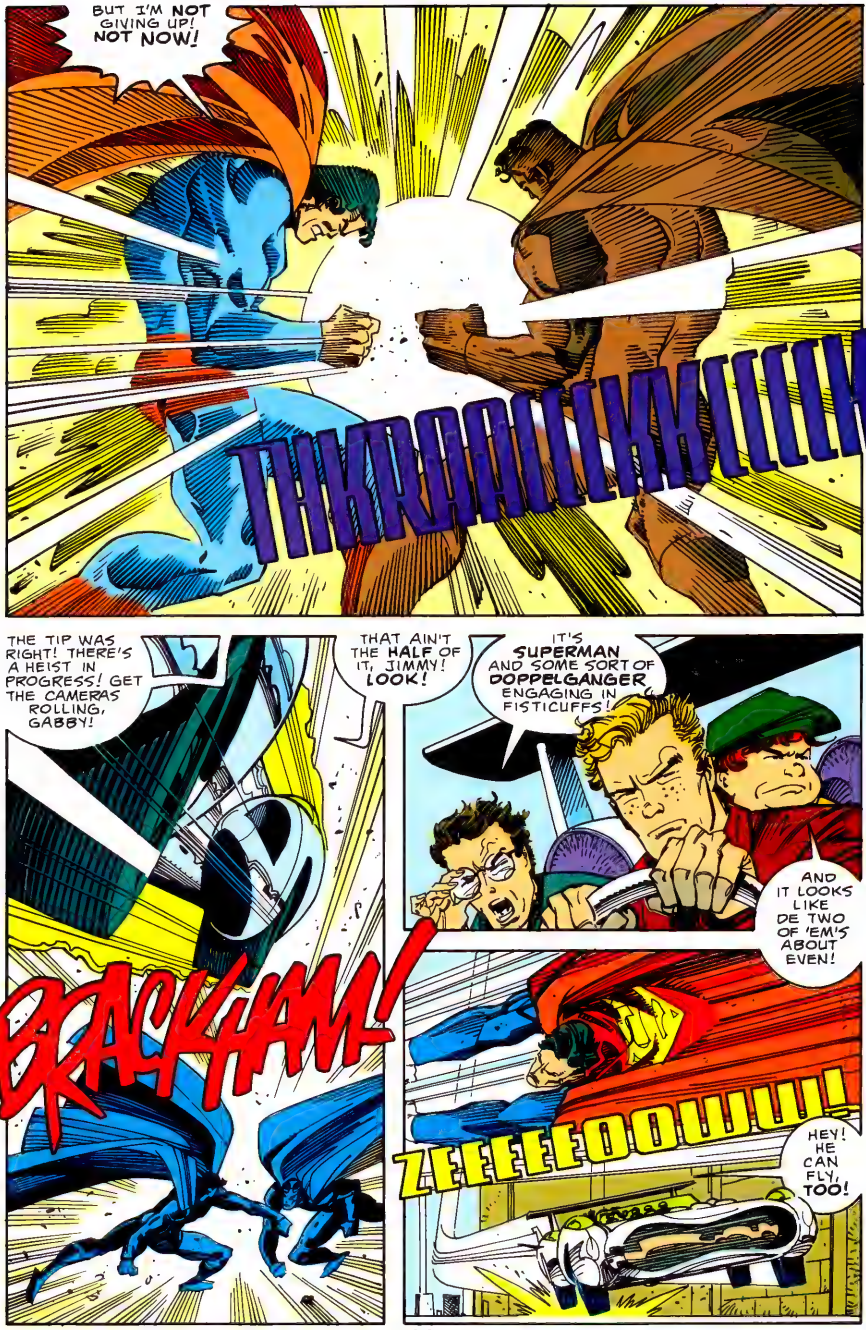
ARRRR RGHH!
NO?
THEN LET ME SHOW YOU SOMETHING THAT MAY INTEREST YOU.
KLIK!
UH? SUPERMAN!
KILL! KILL! KILL!

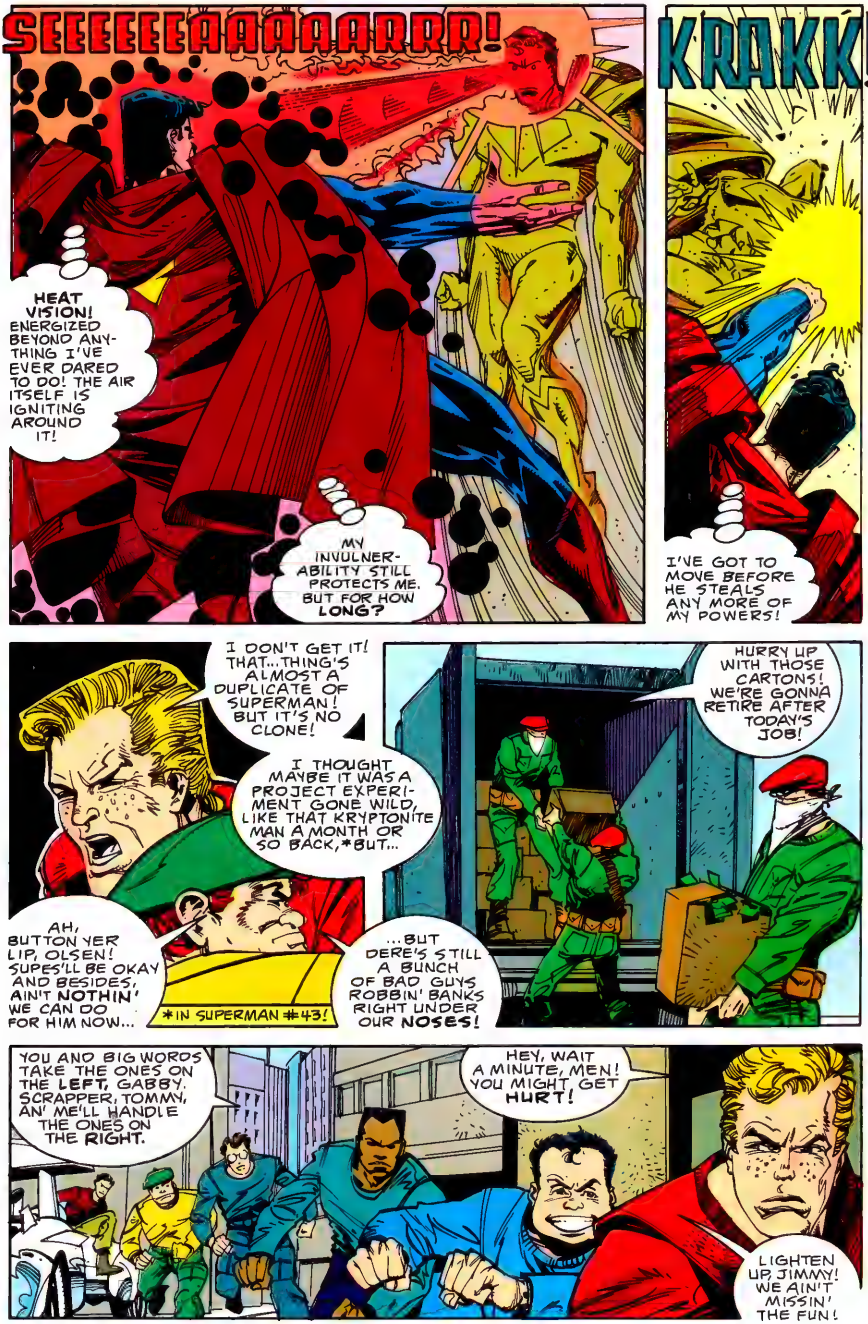

KILL!
POOP!
GONE! GONE! WHERE IS HE?
IT WAS ONLY A HOLOGRAM, I'M AFRAID. BUT IF YOU'RE INTERESTED, YOU AND I SHOULD DO LUNCH.
I THINK PERHAPS WE HAVE A COMMON GOAL.
THOUGHT YOU MIGHT RECOGNIZE HIM.
YOU... KNOW SUPERMAN?
WE'RE... ACQUAINTED...
..AND BELIEVE ME, NOTHING WOULD GIVE ME GREATER PLEASURE THAN TO BE ABLE TO ARRANGE FOR THE TWO OF YOU TO GET TOGETHER.
"NOTHING."
RUNNING AWAY ISN'T GOING TO SOLVE MY PROBLEM. SOONER OR LATER, I'M GOING TO HAVE TO TACKLE THAT THING...
...AND THE SOONER, THE BETTER.
BUT I CAN'T RISK GETTING TOO NEAR TO HIM AGAIN...
...SO I'D BETTER BE CAUTIOUS.
EVEN UNDER-HANDED.
BLAM! BLAMM! BUDDA! BUDDA!

SOUNDS LIKE MY PROBLEMS HAVE JUST BEEN PUT ON HOLD FOR A MOMENT.
HMMM. MULTIPLE BANK ROBBERY IN PROGRESS WITH ARMORED CARS AND HEAVY ARTILLERY.
I'LL HAVE TO MOVE FAST IF I'M GOING TO KEEP PEOPLE FROM GETTING HURT.
FACE DOWN ON THE SIDEWALK! MOVE IT!
BRING THE SACKS! LET'S GO! LET'S GO!

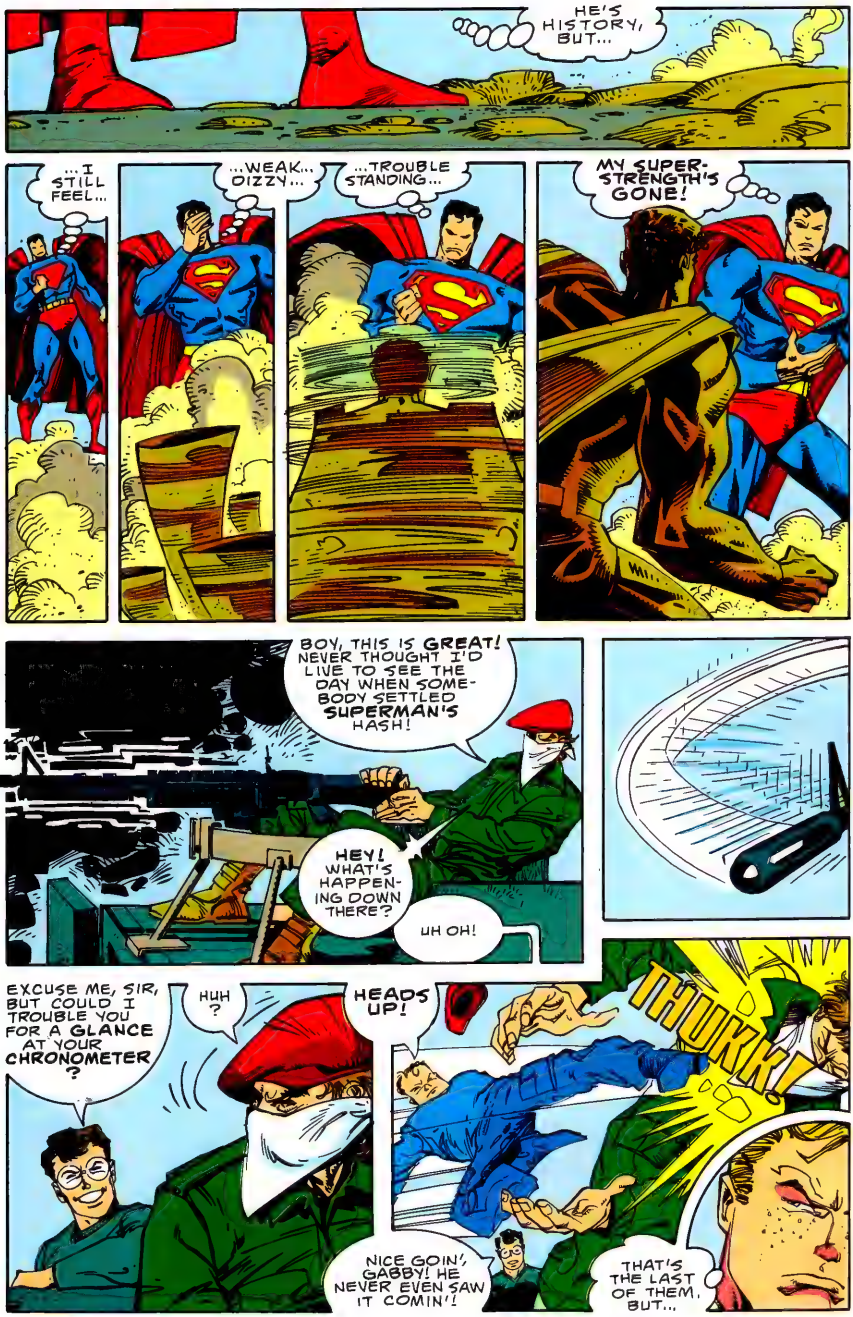

AND THE FIRST THING I NEED TO DO IS NAIL THE MACHINE GUNS!
BUCKO! WE GOT COMPANY! WADDA WE DO?
GEEZ! I DIDN'T THINK HE'D REALLY SHOW UP!
THAT'S ALL SHE WROTE, BOYS. WHY NOT PUT UP YOUR TOYS AND SURRENDER PEACEFULLY BEFORE SOMEBODY GETS--?
I CAN'T FLY! I'M IN FREE-FALL!
HOLY--!
IT WORKED!
THWK!


KRUSH!
YOU!
SKKRRREEEEEEEEEEEEEE
ARRRRRGHH!
AND HE'S TAKEN MY POWER OF FLIGHT!
KRAAA


BUT I'M NOT GIVING UP! NOT NOW!
THKROOLLKKKKKK!
THE TIP WAS RIGHT! THERE'S A HEIST IN PROGRESS! GET THE CAMERAS ROLLING, GABBY!
BRACKAM!
THAT AIN'T THE HALF OF IT, JIMMY! LOOK!
IT'S SUPERMAN AND SOME SORT OF DOPPELGANGER ENGAGING IN FISTICUFFS!
AND IT LOOKS LIKE DE TWO OF 'EM'S ABOUT EVEN!
ZEEEEFOOWWW!
HEY! HE CAN FLY, TOO!

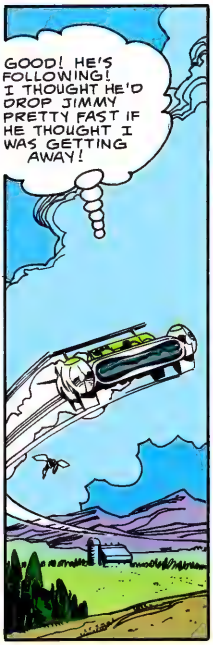

SEEEEEEAAAAARRR!
HEAT VISION! ENERGIZED BEYOND ANYTHING I'VE EVER DARED TO DO! THE AIR ITSELF IS IGNITING AROUND IT!
MY INVULNERABILITY STILL PROTECTS ME. BUT FOR HOW LONG?
KRAKK!
I'VE GOT TO MOVE BEFORE HE STEALS ANY MORE OF MY POWERS!
I DON'T GET IT! THAT...THING'S ALMOST A DUPLICATE OF SUPERMAN! BUT IT'S NO CLONE!
I THOUGHT MAYBE IT WAS A PROJECT EXPERIMENT GONE WILD, LIKE THAT KRYPTONITE MAN A MONTH OR SO BACK,* BUT...
AH, BUTTON YER LIP, OLSEN! SUPES'LL BE OKAY AND BESIDES, AIN'T NOTHIN' WE CAN DO FOR HIM NOW...
*IN SUPERMAN #43!
...BUT DERE'S STILL A BUNCH OF BAD GUYS ROBBIN' BANKS RIGHT UNDER OUR NOSES!
HURRY UP WITH THOSE CARTONS! WE'RE GONNA RETIRE AFTER TODAY'S JOB!
YOU AND BIG WORDS TAKE THE ONES ON THE LEFT, GABBY. SCRAPPER, TOMMY, AN' ME'LL HANDLE THE ONES ON THE RIGHT.
HEY, WAIT A MINUTE, MEN! YOU MIGHT GET HURT!
LIGHTEN UP, JIMMY! WE AIN'T MISSIN' THE FUN!

WHEN HE SHATTERED BEFORE, I DIDN'T FEEL ANY WEAKNESS AROUND HIM!
MY ONLY CHANCE IS TO PRODUCE A REPETITION OF THAT EVENT!
...AND HOPE I CAN PREVENT HIM FROM RE-FORMING AGAIN!
KA-THWHRWAM!
TIME T' LIVEN UP DIS GUY'S DAY.
SCKRITCH!
OWW WWW!
HEADS UP, PAL! AVON CALLIN'!
UGG GGG GH!
QUICK, TOMMY, SLAM DA DOOR ON DE OTHER ONE!
NEVER DROP YOUR ROD, BOZO! IT AIN'T GOOD FORM!
SMACK!
WHAZZAT?
I DUNNO. TAKE A LOOK WHILE I FINISH STACKIN' THIS STUFF!


HE'S HISTORY, BUT...
...I STILL FEEL...
...WEAK... DIZZY...
...TROUBLE STANDING...
MY SUPER-STRENGTH'S GONE!
BOY, THIS IS GREAT! NEVER THOUGHT I'D LIVE TO SEE THE DAY WHEN SOMEBODY SETTLED SUPERMAN'S HASH!
HEY! WHAT'S HAPPENING DOWN THERE?
UH OH!
EXCUSE ME, SIR, BUT COULD I TROUBLE YOU FOR A GLANCE AT YOUR CHRONOMETER?
HUH?
HEADS UP!
THUKK!
NICE GOIN', GABBY! HE NEVER EVEN SAW IT COMIN'!
THAT'S THE LAST OF THEM, BUT...

"... IT LOOKS LIKE SUPERMAN'S IN REAL TROUBLE!"
ARRRRR GGHHHHHH HHHHHH!
UHHHH! FELT THAT EVEN WITH MY INVULNER-ABILITY!
SKRATHRAAM!
SUPERMAN'S DOWN! BUT HOW--?
I GET IT! FIRST THAT THING CAN FLY! THEN IT'S INCREDIBLY STRONG!
IT'S STEALING SUPERMAN'S POWERS!
KARROOAUM!
UH ...WHO? OLSEN?
RRRGAARRR
KKCRUNCH!
GOT TO BUY HIM SOME TIME TO RECOVER!

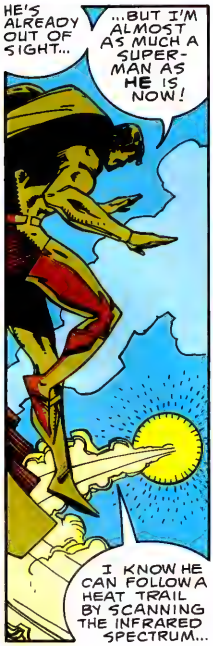
JIMMY! YOU...TRIED TO KILL ME!
NAB!
URRK! HE KNOWS MY NAME! BUT HOW?
THEN YOU DIE FIRST BEFORE I KILL SUPERMAN!
THE SANDMAN'S BERSERK...
...BUT JIMMY HELD HIS ATTENTION JUST LONG ENOUGH!
SO LONG, SUCKER!
DON'T FORGET TO WRITE!
SCHREEACHHH!
NOOOOOO!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT! SUPERMAN'S RUNNING!
DON'T BE A SAP! WHAT ELSE'S HE GONNA DO?

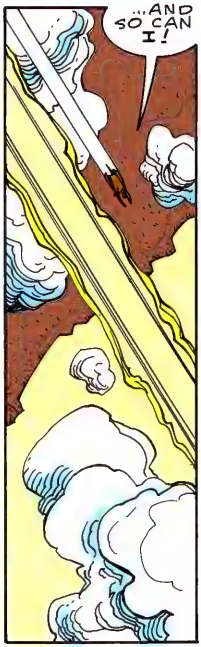

GOOD! HE'S FOLLOWING! I THOUGHT HE'D DROP JIMMY PRETTY FAST IF HE THOUGHT I WAS GETTING AWAY!

NOW I'VE GOT TO STAY FAR ENOUGH IN FRONT OF HIM TO KEEP FROM LOSING ANY MORE POWERS!

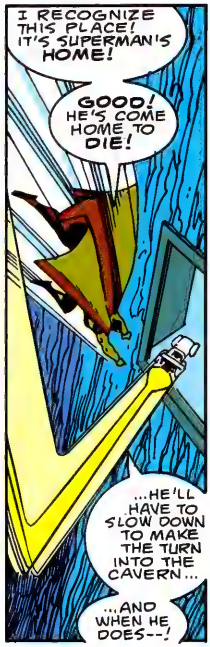
YOU CAN'T ESCAPE ME, SUPERMAN!
I'VE TAKEN ALMOST EVERYTHING FROM YOU, AND IN THE END...
...I'LL TAKE YOUR LIFE! THEN I'LL BE FREE OF PAIN!

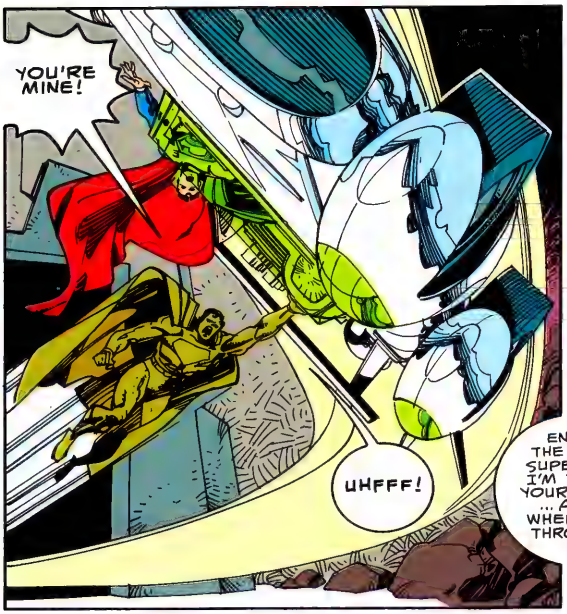
DIE!
KKRAUNCH
COULDN'T DODGE COMPLETELY, BUT INSTRUMENTS INDICATE ONLY SUPERFICIAL DAMAGE.
TIME TO KICK IN THE AFTER-BURNERS!
LOOKS LIKE HE'LL FOLLOW ME TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH...
...AND THAT'S JUST WHERE I'M HEADING!

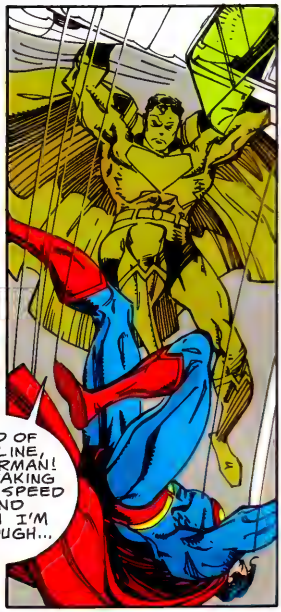

HE'S ALREADY OUT OF SIGHT...
...BUT I'M ALMOST AS MUCH A SUPER-MAN AS HE IS NOW!
I KNOW HE CAN FOLLOW A HEAT TRAIL BY SCANNING THE INFRARED SPECTRUM...


...AND SO CAN I!

HOURS LATER...
I SHOULD HAVE TAKEN HIS SUPER-SPEED EARLIER, BUT THE TRAIL'S GETTING WARMER!
THERE HE IS, DIVING INTO THAT CREVASSE!


I RECOGNIZE THIS PLACE! IT'S SUPERMAN'S HOME!
GOOD! HE'S COME HOME TO DIE!
...HE'LL HAVE TO SLOW DOWN TO MAKE THE TURN INTO THE CAVERN...
...AND WHEN HE DOES--!

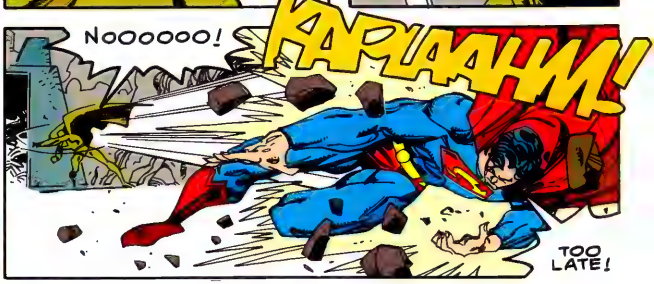

YOU'RE MINE!
UHFFF!

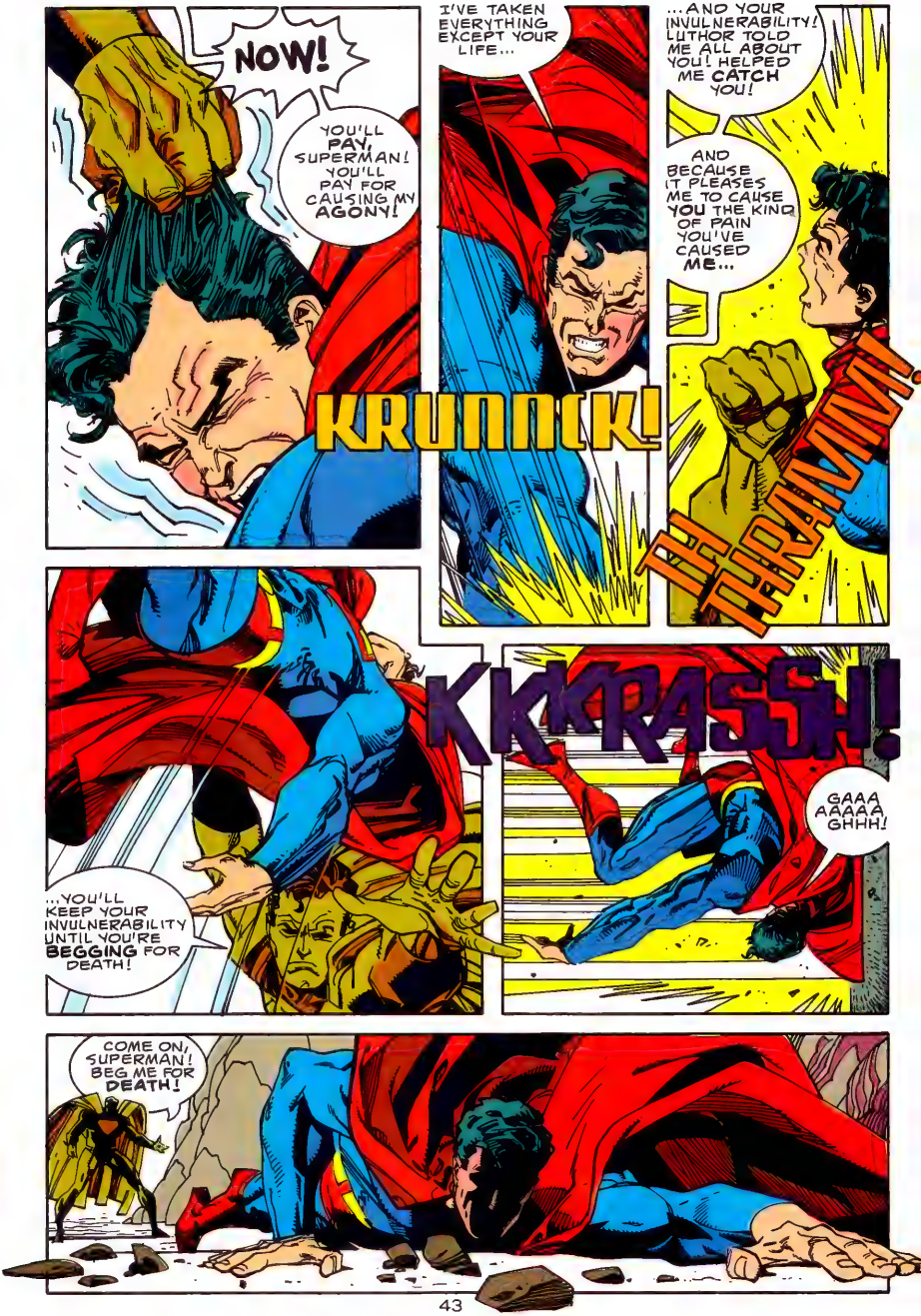

END OF THE LINE, SUPERMAN! I'M TAKING YOUR SPEED ...AND WHEN I'M THROUGH...

AARRRGH! THE PAIN! THE PAIN! MUST STOP THE PAIN!

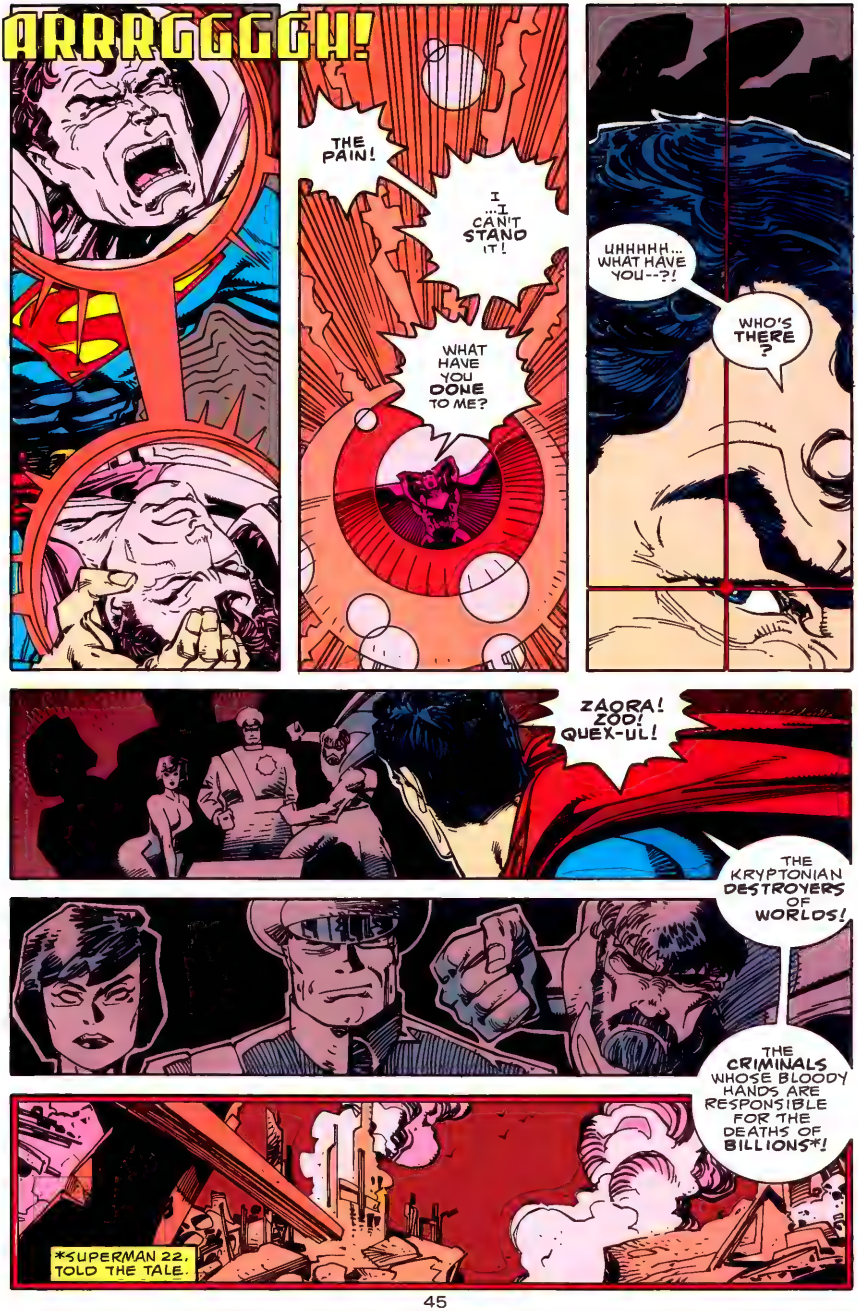
NOW! WHILE IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN! I'M ALMOST TOO DIZZY TO STAND, BUT HE'LL RECOVER IN SECONDS! I'VE GOT TO--!

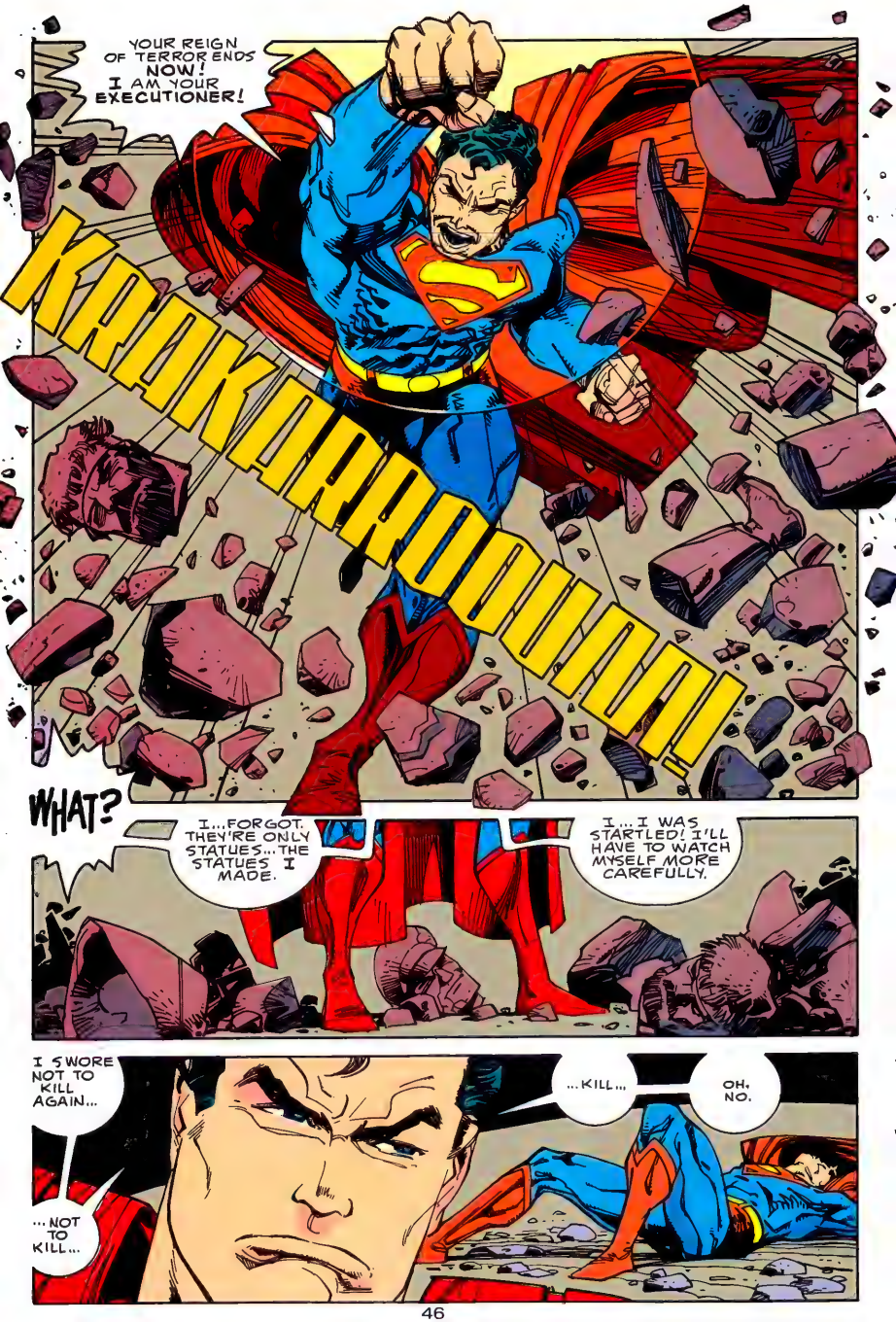
NO!
SCHRAK


NOOOOOO!
KAPLAAAHM!
TOO LATE!

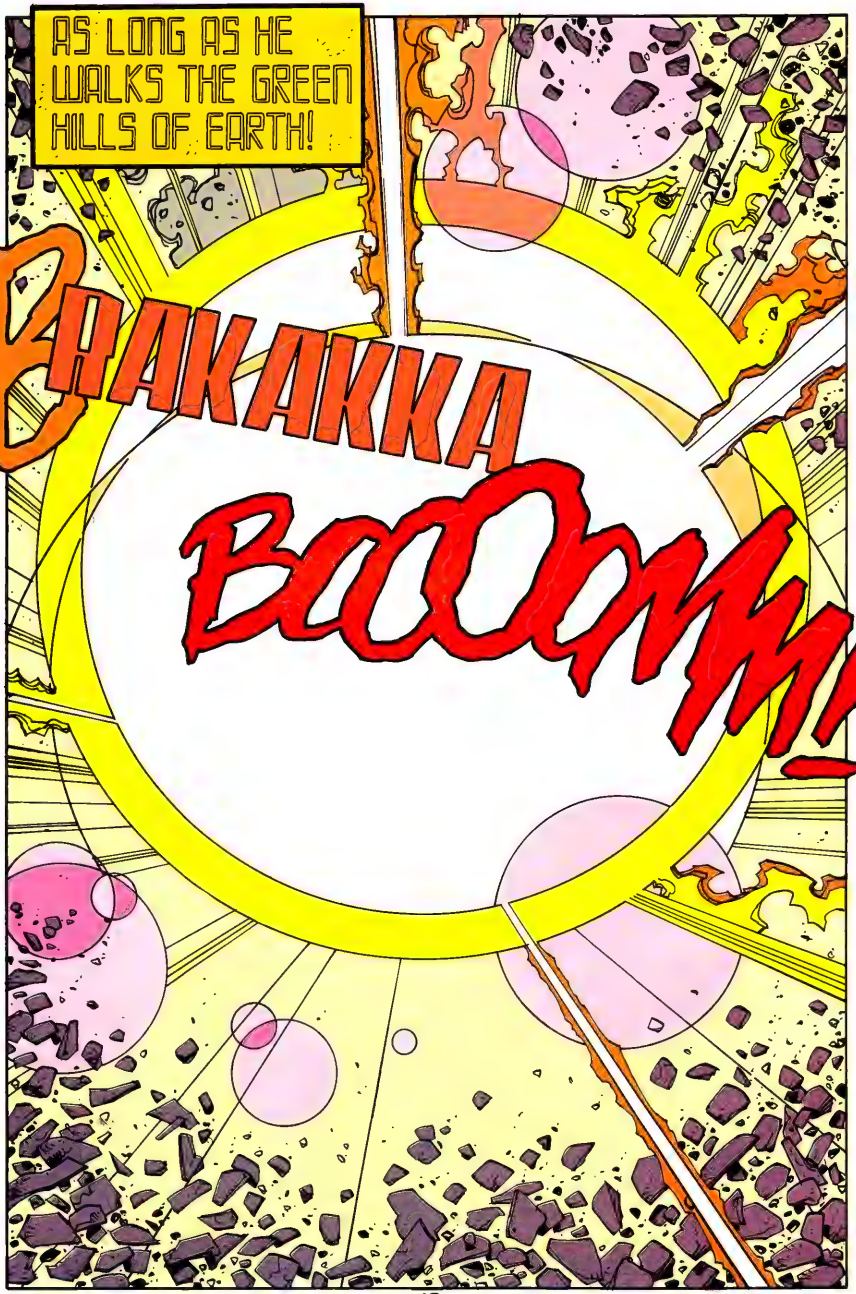

NOW!
YOU'LL PAY, SUPERMAN! YOU'LL PAY FOR CAUSING MY AGONY!
I'VE TAKEN EVERYTHING EXCEPT YOUR LIFE...
...AND YOUR INVULNERABILITY! LUTHOR TOLD ME ALL ABOUT YOU! HELPED ME CATCH YOU!
AND BECAUSE IT PLEASES ME TO CAUSE YOU THE KIND OF PAIN YOU'VE CAUSED ME...
KRUNNCK!
TH THRAAVM!
...YOU'LL KEEP YOUR INVULNERABILITY UNTIL YOU'RE BEGGING FOR DEATH!
KKKRASSH!
GAAA AAAAA GHHH!
COME ON, SUPERMAN! BEG ME FOR DEATH!

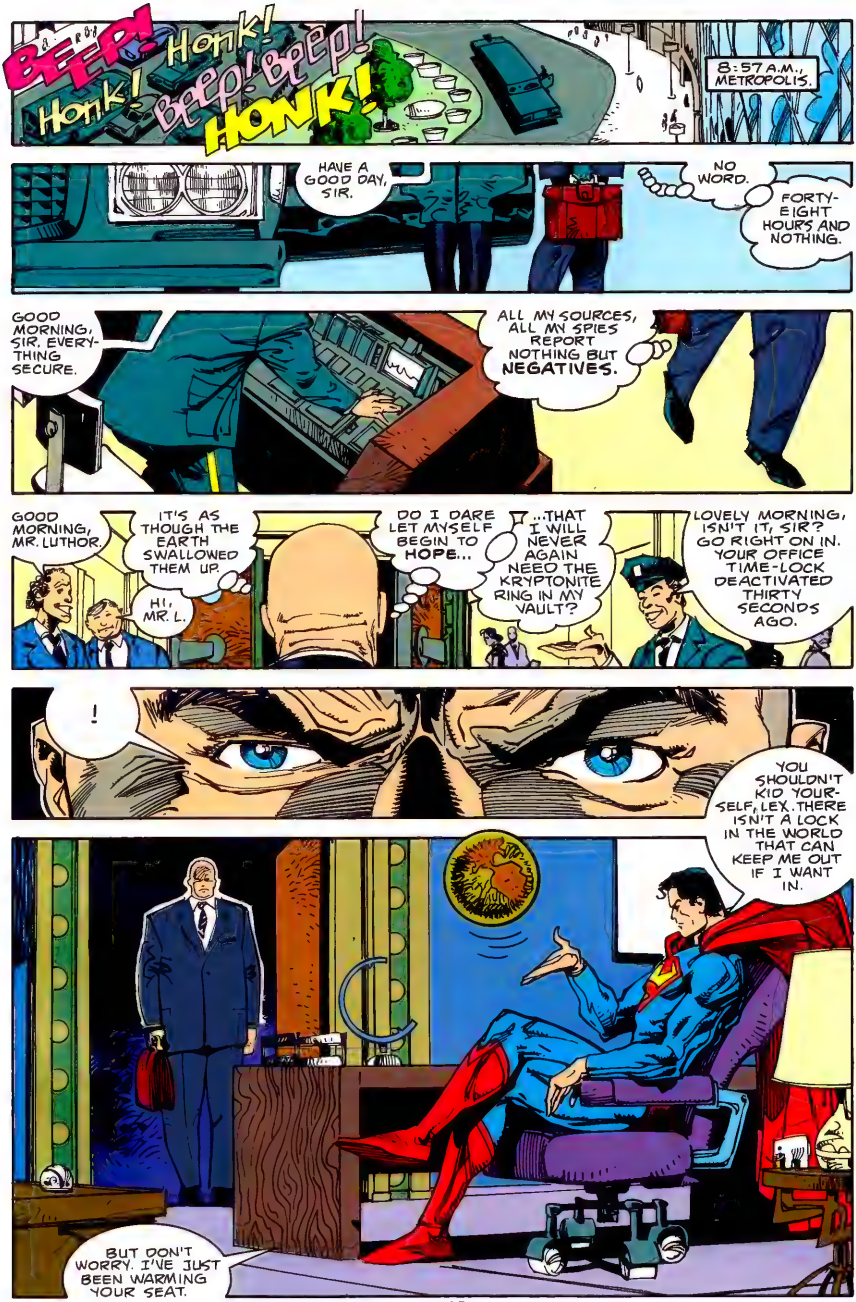
BEG ME!
BLLAAHMM!
SUPERMAN?
SUPERMAN?
YOU CAN RUN, BUT YOU CAN'T HIDE.
HE MUST BE MORE WASTED THAN I THOUGHT.
UN-CONSCIOUS. I'LL HAVE TO WAIT TILL HE WAKES UP.
I WANT HIM TO SEE IT COMING.
WHAA-- GAGGGG GGGG?
SURPRISE! IT'S HERE!
BRAKKAKKK!

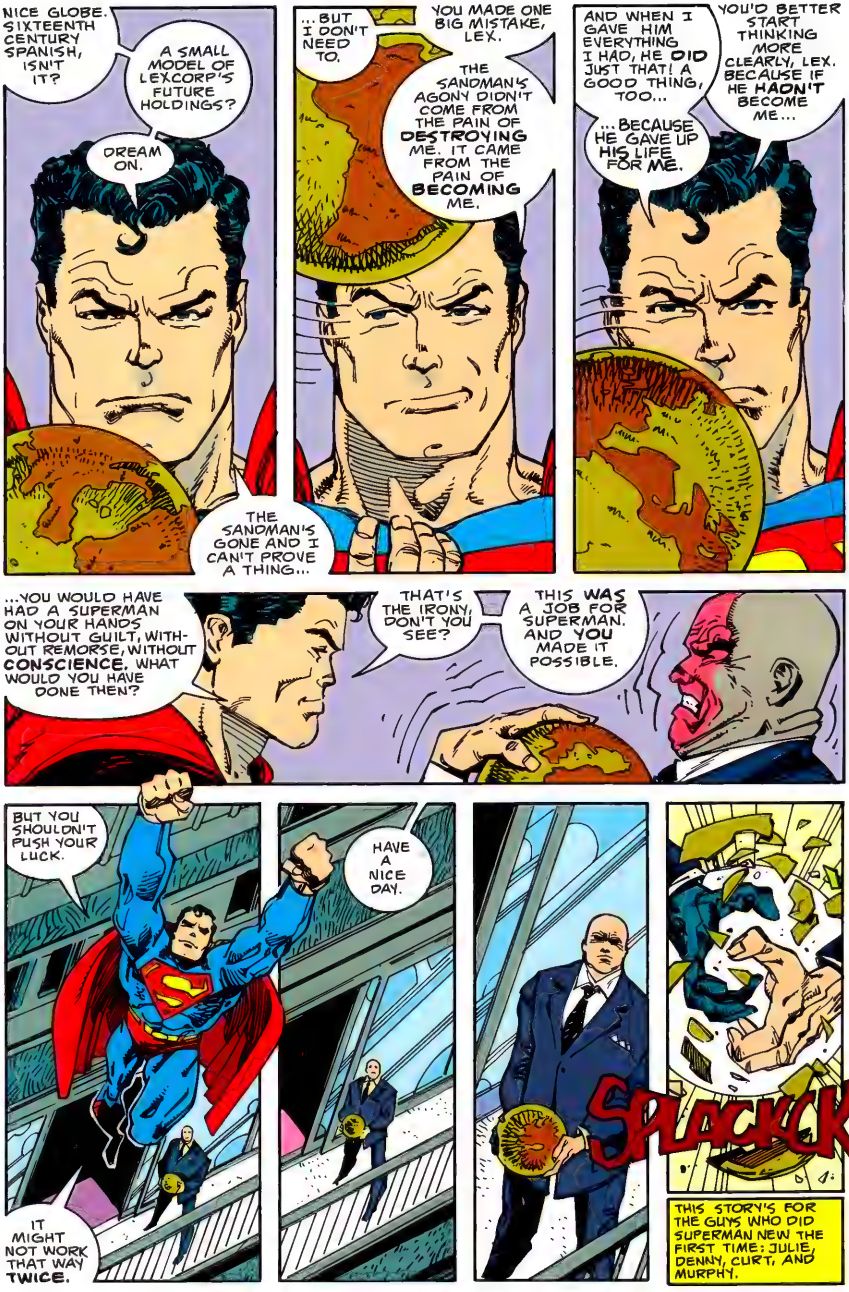

ARRRGGGGH!
THE PAIN!
I ...I CAN'T STAND IT!
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO ME?
UHHHHH... WHAT HAVE YOU--?!
WHO'S THERE?
ZAORA! ZOD! QUEX-UL!
THE KRYPTONIAN DESTROYERS OF WORLDS!
THE CRIMINALS WHOSE BLOODY HANDS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATHS OF BILLIONS*!
*SUPERMAN 22, TOLD THE TALE.


YOUR REIGN OF TERROR ENDS NOW! I AM YOUR EXECUTIONER!
KRAKKROOOM!
WHAT?
I...FORGOT. THEY'RE ONLY STATUES... THE STATUES I MADE.
I... I WAS STARTLED! I'LL HAVE TO WATCH MYSELF MORE CAREFULLY.
I SWORE NOT TO KILL AGAIN...
...NOT TO KILL...
...KILL...
OH. NO.

NO.
NOOoO!
DON'T BE DEAD! YOU CAN'T BE DEAD!
WE SWORE AN OATH HERE, IN THIS PLACE...
...THAT WE'D BE THE CHAMPIONS OF LIFE...AND NOT ITS DESTROYERS.
AN OATH THAT SUPERMAN SWORE WOULD NEVER BE FORGOTTEN...
...AS LONG AS THE LAST SON OF KRYPTON...


AS LONG AS HE WALKS THE GREEN HILLS OF EARTH!
BRAKAKKA
BOOOMM!


BEEP! Honk! Honk! Beep! Beep! HONK!
8:57 A.M., METROPOLIS.
HAVE A GOOD DAY, SIR.
NO WORD.
FORTY-EIGHT HOURS AND NOTHING.
GOOD MORNING, SIR. EVERYTHING SECURE.
ALL MY SOURCES, ALL MY SPIES REPORT NOTHING BUT NEGATIVES.
GOOD MORNING, MR. LUTHOR.
IT'S AS THOUGH THE EARTH SWALLOWED THEM UP.
HI, MR. L.
DO I DARE LET MYSELF BEGIN TO HOPE...
..THAT I WILL NEVER AGAIN NEED THE KRYPTONITE RING IN MY VAULT?
LOVELY MORNING, ISN'T IT, SIR? GO RIGHT ON IN. YOUR OFFICE TIME-LOCK DEACTIVATED THIRTY SECONDS AGO.
!
YOU SHOULDN'T KID YOURSELF, LEX. THERE ISN'T A LOCK IN THE WORLD THAT CAN KEEP ME OUT IF I WANT IN.
BUT DON'T WORRY. I'VE JUST BEEN WARMING YOUR SEAT.


NICE GLOBE. SIXTEENTH CENTURY SPANISH, ISN'T IT?
A SMALL MODEL OF LEXCORP'S FUTURE HOLDINGS?
DREAM ON.
THE SANDMAN'S GONE AND I CAN'T PROVE A THING...
...BUT I DON'T NEED TO.
YOU MADE ONE BIG MISTAKE, LEX.
THE SANDMAN'S AGONY DIDN'T COME FROM THE PAIN OF DESTROYING ME. IT CAME FROM THE PAIN OF BECOMING ME.
AND WHEN I GAVE HIM EVERYTHING I HAD, HE DID JUST THAT! A GOOD THING, TOO...
...BECAUSE HE GAVE UP HIS LIFE FOR ME.
YOU'D BETTER START THINKING MORE CLEARLY, LEX. BECAUSE IF HE HADN'T BECOME ME...
...YOU WOULD HAVE HAD A SUPERMAN ON YOUR HANDS WITHOUT GUILT, WITHOUT REMORSE, WITHOUT CONSCIENCE. WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE THEN?
THAT'S THE IRONY, DON'T YOU SEE?
THIS WAS A JOB FOR SUPERMAN. AND YOU MADE IT POSSIBLE.
BUT YOU SHOULDN'T PUSH YOUR LUCK.
IT MIGHT NOT WORK THAT WAY TWICE.
HAVE A NICE DAY.
SPLACKCK!
THIS STORY'S FOR THE GUYS WHO DID SUPERMAN NEW THE FIRST TIME: JULIE, DENNY, CURT, AND MURPHY.

Superman Post-Crisis Chronology
Volume 035 A War of Doxes

"The Evil Factory", first appeared in Superman issue #43, released March, 1990
Jerry Ordway (writer), Jerry Ordway (penciller), Dennis Janke (inker)

"The Limits of Power", first appeared in The Adventures of Superman issue #466, released March, 1990
Dan Jurgens (writer), Dan Jurgens (penciller), Dick Giordano (inker)

"Love & Death", first appeared in Action Comics issue #653, released March, 1990
Roger Stern (writer), Bob McLeod (penciller), Brett Breeding (penciller), Kerry Gammill (penciller), Brett Breeding (inker)

"Quest For Vengeance", first appeared in The Adventures of Superman Annual issue #2, released July, 1990
Dan Jurgens (writer), Bob McLeod (penciller), Curt Swan (penciller), Kerry Gammill (penciller), Bob McLeod (inker)

"Childhood's End", first appeared in L.E.G.I.O.N. Annual issue #1, released January, 1990
Alan Grant (writer), Jim Fern (penciller), Jeff Albrecht (inker)

"The Sand Man", first appeared in Superman Special issue #1, released October, 1992
(writer), Barry Windsor-Smith (penciller), Frank Miller (penciller), Geof Darrow (penciller), Walter Simonson (penciller), Barry Windsor-Smith (inker), Frank Miller (inker), Geof Darrow (inker), Walter Simonson (inker)

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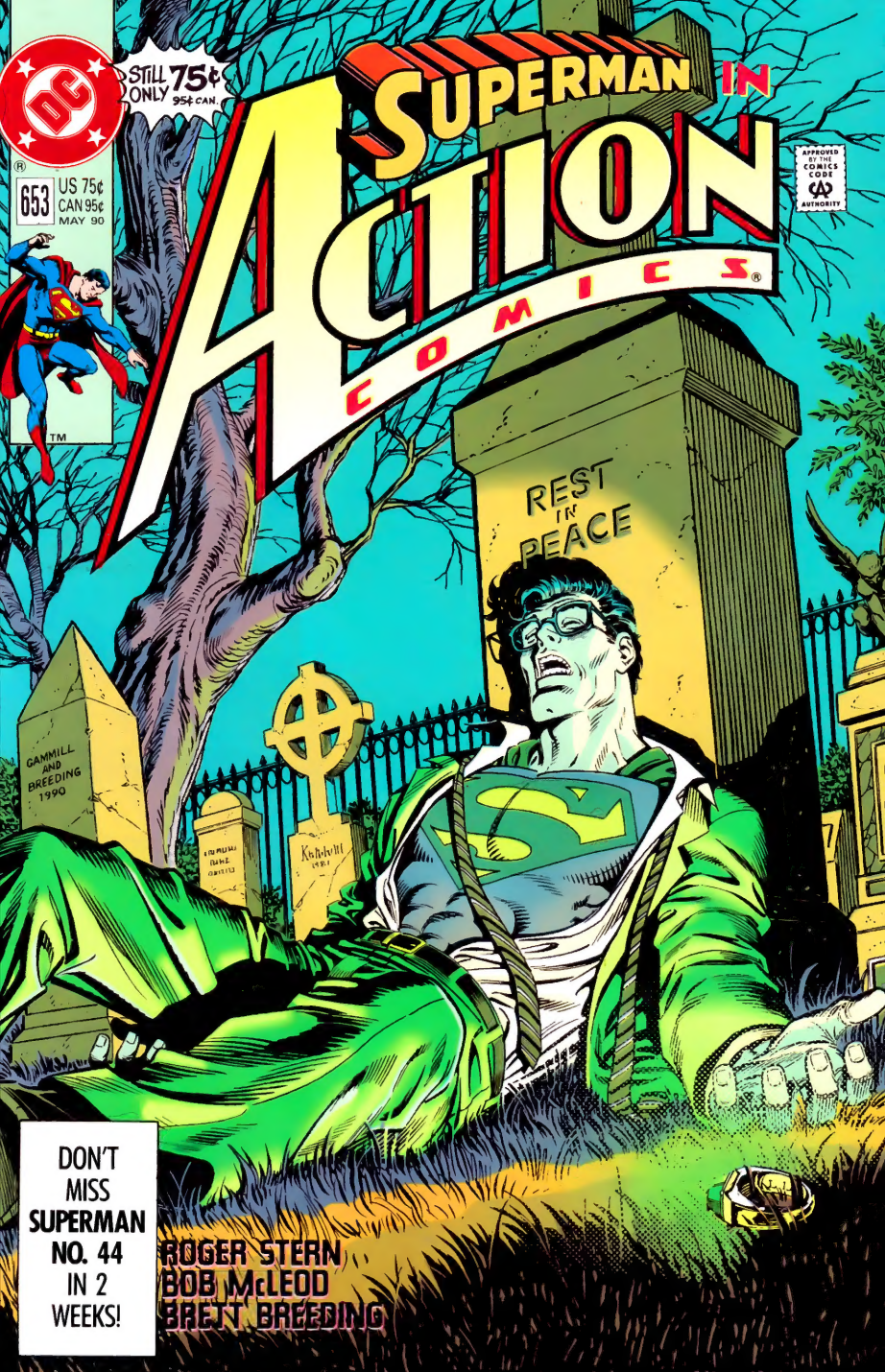
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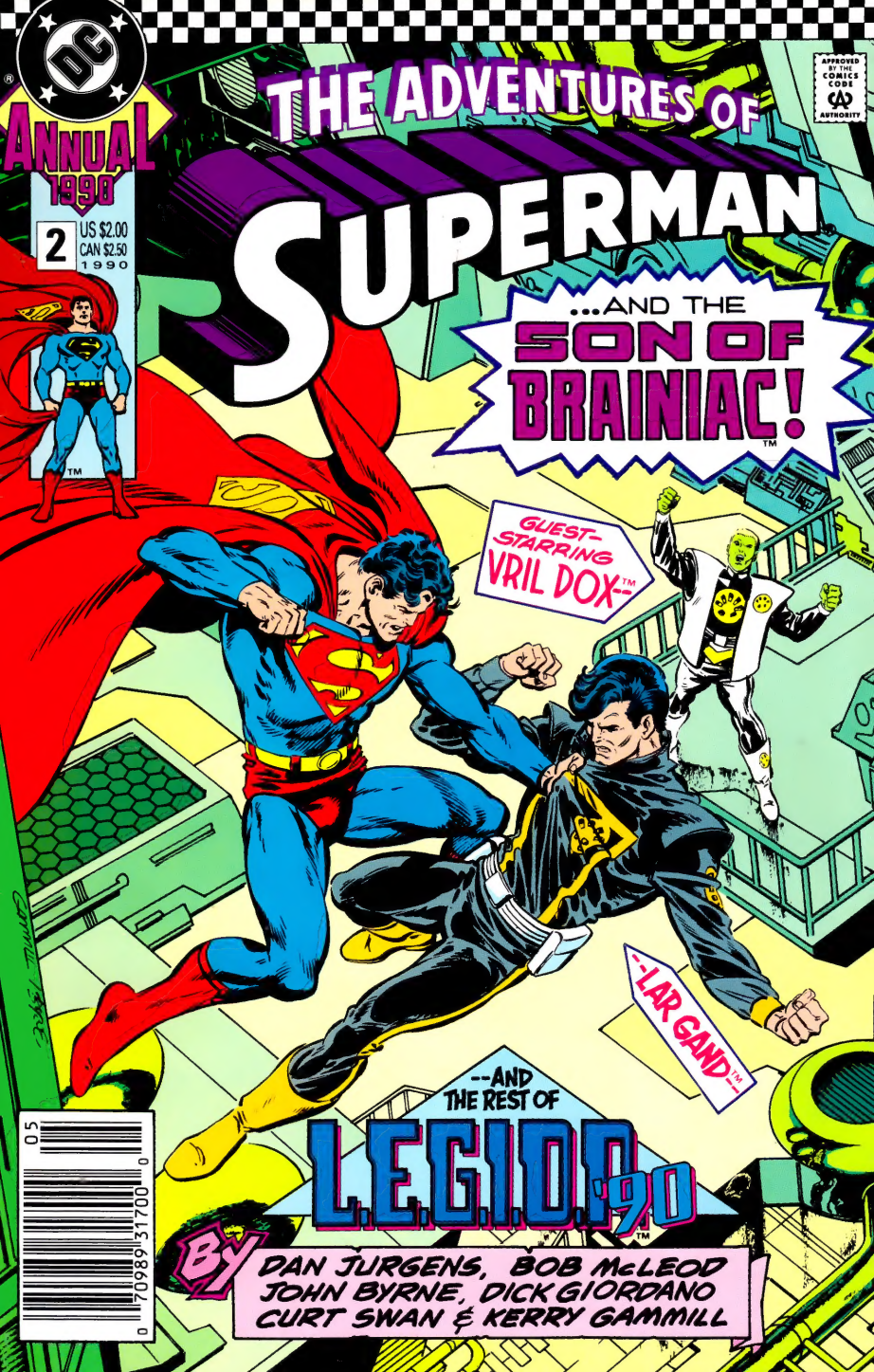
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